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ISSUE 210 NOV. 16-DEC. 6, 2016

NEWS • CULTURE • EVENTS • CEDAR RAPIDS • CORALVILLE • IOWA CITY

# LITTLE VILLAGE



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uhh...* **NOW  
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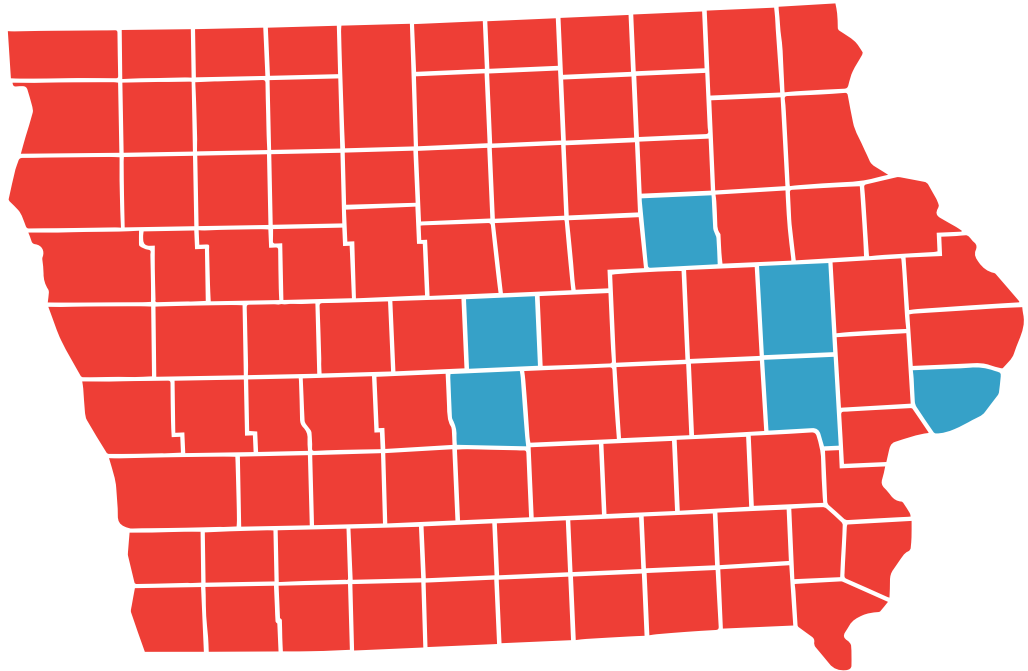
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& KAREN NICHOLS

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LAUREN SHOTWELL



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A Bizarre New Reality  
By Jordan Sellergren

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# ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

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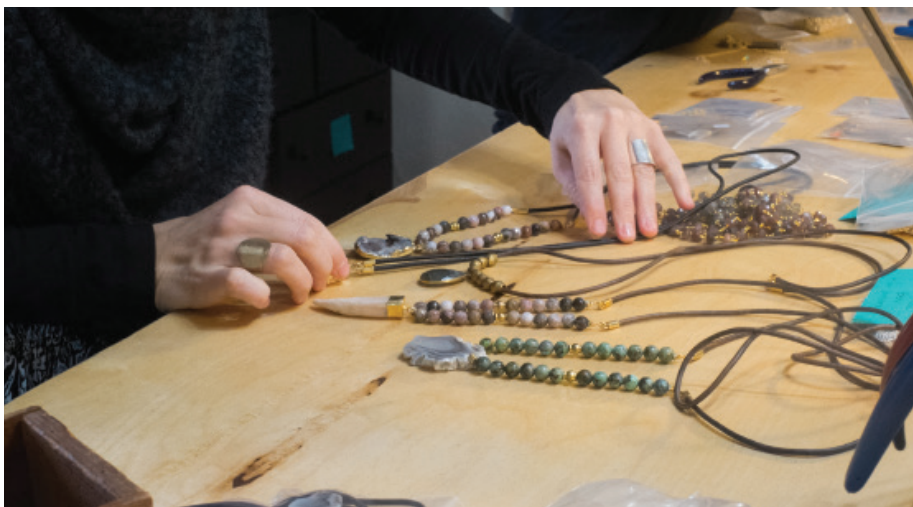
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**Little Village** is an independent, community-supported news and culture publication based in Iowa City. Through journalism, essays and events, we work to improve our community in the Iowa City, Coralville and Cedar Rapids area according to a few core values: environmental sustainability, affordability and access, economic and labor justice, racial justice, gender equity, quality healthcare, quality education and critical culture.

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## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

THIS ELECTION CYCLE has both revealed and fomented a strong divide in our communities and across the nation. While for some it will take time to move forward from this, we urge members of our community to reach out to one another, to raise awareness of discrimination, harassment and other wrongs and to work toward understanding where possible.

As always, but especially now, we offer the pages of *Little Village* as a place for members of the community to have their voices heard.

At *Little Village*, we have a commitment to channeling the power of journalism and the written word to shine a light on our core values: affordability and access, economic and labor justice, environmental sustainability, racial justice, gender equity, quality healthcare and education and critical culture.

We are a safe space for those within our communities who feel the need to speak out on these issues, on the recent election and on where we are headed next. We hope our readers will take the time to read and understand and participate in the community discussions that are needed in such a charged atmosphere.

Journalism has the power to reveal wrongs and hold those in power accountable for their actions. It has the power to give a voice to members of our community who feel silenced. It is needed, now more than ever. And you are needed, now more than ever. Join us in driving conversation. Speak out; we will amplify you.

—LV Editors

**EVERYONE I KNOW IS SCARED.** Capital S. A kind of collective, shared fear that I hadn't known until Election Night, the fear of an entire generation of queer, undocumented, Muslim, trans, disabled, poor and people of color (PoC) staring out at the next four to eight years. The fear of knowing that people you know, people that you may even love, have been waiting for the moment where they could stop pretending to care whether you live or die, waiting to throw their hat in the ring that promises that your body and the bodies of those like you will never happen to them ever again. Knowing that someone else was partying over what left you hyperventilating in the bathroom.



Protesters block I-80 on Nov. 12 in Iowa City. Photo by Zak Neumann

Everyone in the main room of the Women's Resource and Action Center that night was ready for a party. Even my most dyed-in-the-wool leftist friends were nominally enjoying themselves, myself included. Around the time Florida was lost, the party was over—rather, I was in a room of people who very, very desperately, did not want to be alone. People who suddenly realized that outside that stormproof front door lay a world that, while still the flawed time and town they all recognized, was awakening in all the wrong ways. People who felt helpless once they realized the ballot wasn't going to be what saved them.

At some point, someone used the term “shell-shocked,” which is about the most accurate term I could think of—everyone knew a (proverbial) bomb just went off, and yet they're wandering around the remains of the building wondering where the rest of it went.

I think that sort of shock is understandable—it's a very human response to such a dizzying and terrifying spectacle. But we can't afford to stay in this state. America did

not change on Nov. 7; rather, the quintessential American story of relative progress being countered by conservative backlash shifted into its next phase. No victory is safe any more—and in truth, no victory has been.

This summer, the day after Orlando, I stood in front of a crowd on the Ped Mall and told them that “community is the only thing that will save us.” I think that's true now more than ever. But we need to understand something: Community isn't something that can be taken for granted. Community needs to be real, material, something worked for every day as we grow spaces and cultures of resistance to live and thrive inside of. But community also needs to be plural—we can't rely upon a false notion of community that subsumes the material realities of race, gender, class or sexuality under a general notion of Activism or Equality.

I consider myself a member of the LGBT and trans communities here on campus, existing as a non-passing hypervisible trans lesbian, and these aspects of my identity cause me palpable, material strife just moving around

town, let alone in trying to interact with any sort of medical or legal apparatus. But, being white, I still have the power to oppress people along that axis. Any oppression I face as a trans lesbian does not allow me to cut corners when it comes to supporting marginalized communities that are not my own, and it doesn't empower me to take sole ownership of the spotlight.

The ubiquitous quote by Lilla Watson comes to mind: “If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

Community means checking in on friends who are tired and scared, and actually listening and working with them when they voice those fears. It means checking in on people in your community or other communities who you only know tangentially to let them know that you're there to support or work with them. It means predominantly white groups making space for people of color and addressing racism within their own communities. It means leaving open and serious offers to walk or drive people-at-risk home if you can, to hopefully shield them from a league of douchebags who have just been given moral license to take after their tangerine, rape-apologist, racist idol.

It means never letting anyone think of what's happened now or for the next four years as “normal.” It means acting as gracefully and constructively as we possibly can as this crisis that has been building since colonies were first established boils over in the new millennium. It means recognizing our own agency, even in strife, and using it in every way we possibly can to reduce the harm on our ourselves, our friends, our families and even perfect strangers. It means building bridges where none existed, rebuilding bridges that were burnt and making ourselves felt in spaces that wish they could forget us.

It means building a world better than the one that has rejected us, or people that we know. Because if we aren't given space by the systems that are supposed to represent and protect us, we have but one option: to carve our own spaces out of them. **lv**

*Rose Fiala is a junior and intern with the Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies department at the University of Iowa. She's remarkably good at treading water, and plans to do so until this is all over.*

**“WE MUST HONESTLY FACE** the fact that the movement must address itself to the question of restructuring the whole of American society ... And when you begin to ask that question, you are raising a question about the economic system, about a broader distribution of wealth... [Y]ou begin to ask the question, ‘Who owns the oil?’ You begin to ask the question, ‘Who owns the iron ore?’ You begin to ask the question, ‘Why is it that people have to pay water bills in a world that’s two-thirds water?’ These are words that must be said.”

—from “Where Do We Go From Here?,” *Delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 11th Annual SCLC Convention, Atlanta, Ga. 16 August 1967*

**SOME OF US WOULD LIKE TO PRETEND** that business as usual will suffice—that the unfortunate outcomes of Tuesday’s election have no bearing on *how* we go about the unending progressive movement for inclusion, equity, peace and justice in this county. Others are quite clear that it is more important than ever to make sure the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is held accountable for the ways in which it has failed to uphold a truly democratic process. After all, when it became clear that the DNC deck was stacked against Sen. Bernie Sanders, the fall-out went no further than Debbie Wasserman Schultz and there was no effort to change that. Perhaps even the DNC regrets the way it ignored all the polls that had Sanders defeating the Republican candidate. Still others think it is time to rebuild the Democratic party with progressive leadership and intentions. All of these ideas and more could be given thorough examination.

Some of us stood in College Green Park in Iowa City last week and listened as Sanders reminded us that his campaign had served a vital purpose. It had helped to create the most progressive platform that our country has ever seen. Many of us who remain devout Sanders supporters decided to hold our noses and vote for Hillary Clinton, largely because we felt this would be a more socially responsible action than either staying at home or diluting the effort to defeat the Republican candidate.

For a long time I had refused to accept Hillary Clinton as a responsible choice. People talked about the level of misogyny they saw reflected in the comments about her. I did not see Clinton’s gender as the issue, I saw her position on the issues as an issue. Imagine, for example, if she had even modestly acknowledged the rights of the Standing Rock Sioux or the abuse of the eminent domain laws on farmland in Iowa. Imagine if she had commented on the threat to the drinking water of millions of people by a leaking oil pipeline. Most of the progressives I have read or talked to could not support her

silence. And the lack of trust many of us felt had to do with her affiliations with entities like Monsanto, Wal-mart and the corporations that funded her campaign. But regardless of Clinton’s stance on the issues, I think the real problem lies elsewhere.

Who could deny that there are problems within the electoral system in this country? Examples of these problems abound: the unnecessary and corrupt influence of big money, the death of third party options, the

## We need a progressive summit that takes as one of its key priorities the restructuring of the electoral process.

specious influence of the electoral college, the failure of the government to fully protect and enforce the Voting Rights Act, voter suppression, gratuitous gerrymandering, illogical voter ID restrictions, the corrosive sway of yellow journalism, the absence of accountability among mainstream media outlets, the failure of our law enforcement or the judicial system to exact due process regarding accusations of rape, financial malfeasance, tax evasion, sexual assault, espionage, threats of violence against other candidates, inciting violence against Mexicans, Blacks, Muslims and women, and much more. These are serious problems.

We need expedient and well-coordinated action to build local progressive networks that will help us address these and other problems in the electoral system. To do so goes hand in hand with delivering candidates who are not only willing to listen to and respect the electorate (all of the electorate), but who see that as the most important part of their job. We need alternative choices to Democrats and

Republicans who take the votes they get for granted. Progressives must be decisive and determined in making sure we have a well-informed public that can access not only registration and voting venues easily, but also can also enjoy independent forums that educate them about the most pressing social, economic and political issues affecting them. We need progressive coalition politics that offer 21st century platforms—those that are on a par with other advanced western political states.

In my view, sustaining any progressive gains of the last 50 years or developing strategies for the 2020 elections means organizing locally. I agree with [Johnson County Supervisor] Mike Carberry when he calls for developing a local coalition that can mobilize at a moment’s notice to support or protest issues, initiative and candidates based on our shared values. Furthermore, if *ever* there was

a time to convene a local progressive summit to discuss and develop our options, that time is now. Let us do so while we still can. As we find out what we are made of in the next few years, I hope we put love and kindness at the center of our efforts to build democracy. I am envisioning a future that is not strangled by the dictates of the super rich.

We need a progressive summit that takes as one of its key priorities the restructuring of the electoral process. A summit that seeks to help change political discourse in this country so that it is a true reflection of the needs and ideas of the people. I hope as we go forward we can remember First Lady Michelle Obama’s words: “When they go low, we go high.” **lv**

*Damita Brown, PhD, is a poet and a painter. Born and raised in Iowa, she studied at the University of Washington and University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of the self-published collection of poems ‘Beyond Struggle’ and the forthcoming work ‘Endless Road.’*



## HOW CAN I HELP?

Volunteer or make a donation. Here are just a few local organizations working for marginalized communities:

### General

- ACLU of Iowa
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- MoveOn.org (local chapter)

### Education

- Iowa State Education Association

### Environment

- 100 Grannies for a Liveable Future
- Food and Water Watch
- Sierra Club

### Gun Violence Prevention

- Everytown for Gun Safety
- Moms Demand Action

### International Peace

- PEACE Iowa
- Veterans for Peace

### LGBTQ Rights

- Human Rights Campaign
- Iowa City Pride
- Lambda Legal
- One Iowa

### Racial & Minority Justice

- Coalition for Racial Justice
- New Iowans Legal Advice Clinic (Iowa Legal Aid)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice

### Religious Minority Rights

- Iowa Hillel
- UI Muslim Student Association

### Women's Rights

- 50-50 in 2020
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- Emma Goldman Clinic
- Iowa City Planned Parenthood
- Iowa NOW (National Organization for Women)
- Johnson County League of Women Voters
- Rape Victim Advocacy Program
- Women's Resource and Action Center

### Workers' Rights

- Center for Worker Justice

### Arts Action

- Girls Rock Iowa City
- Public Space One

## LETTER

**AS I SIT HERE, A FEW DAYS INTO OUR ELECTORAL APOCALYPSE**, I am struggling with what to say. I, like many of you, am awash in worry, anger, fear and an almost overwhelming sadness. I wish I had a set of ready-made answers for how to counter the coming onslaught of harm to the vulnerable and marginalized in our society, to the environment and to our institutions. I wish I had solutions for healing our body politic so that we could reason with each other across the political divide with love and respect. In the coming weeks, political scientists, pundits and politicians will sermonize about why and how we got here, and how we move forward. I will leave all that to them. Right now, for me, the best I can do is this:

**You have the right to feel sad, angry, anxious and/or afraid.** The results of this election at both the federal and state level are and will be devastating for millions, and not just for policy reasons. Sexual assault victims are triggered by the knowledge that America has sent a sexual predator to the White House. LGBTQ, minority, Muslim, Jewish and immigrant people do not feel safe. Political strife is dividing families and ending friendships. Being upset means we are both human and awake.

We all process events like these in our own way and at our own pace. Some will want to cry, scream, withdraw and eat all the chips and dip. Others gather with friends for solace, and some of us are moved to jump into action and create change. All of these are okay and appropriate. No one is required to “get over it” and “get to work” (yet), though each of these approaches might be right for some.

Emotions are our messengers. We need to pause long enough to care for them and listen to what they have to say. Listening deeply to our own voice is ultimately where our power lies.

**History provides insight into how to deal with the present.** This is not the first time that a people has felt threatened by their government or by societal forces seemingly beyond their control. Indeed, the oppressed in this country will tell you that nothing here is really new, just being revealed. Yet, there is collective memory of how to face trying times. We can go to the teachers—Thoreau, Gandhi, Tutu, Mandela, Frank, Day, Wiesel, Nhật Hạnh, Romero, King, and many others—for wisdom and guidance in how to stand in this reality and how to move forward. We can look back in history at other eras—the fall of Rome, the London blitz—and even to other parts of the world today (Syria, Haiti, the Sudans) where people are suffering immensely and yet carry on with fortitude, with eyes fixed on a better future. We can turn to art and literature and the world's great wisdom traditions for ways to see the situation in a different light.

**Counter fear by living in the present moment.** By focusing too much on the future,

our imaginations can lead us to fear even more ills than will actually happen, and we inflict suffering on ourselves. Instead, wash the dishes, do the laundry, get the kids off to school. The leaves are still changing into beautiful Fruit Loop colors outside. Have you seen them?

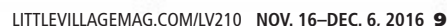
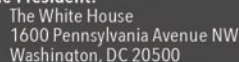
**Long term, inaction is not an option.** At some point, when we are ready, those of us who are able will indeed need to uncurl from the fetal position and put our work gloves on. As much as I want to withdraw into the bubble of The People's Republic of Johnson County, stop reading the news and, as Timothy Leary said, “Turn on, tune in, drop out,” I recognize that it is the height of privilege for me to be able to even consider that option. My minority, LGBTQ and immigrant friends do not have such luxury. As Edmund Burke once said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men [and women] to do nothing.”

**Remember we are not alone.** We need to build community with other endangered species (all of us). Community is where we find solace, direction, strategy and political power. Whether that means joining a local political action organization (see sidebar) or simply gathering with a few friends down at the pub, together we are much greater than the sum of our parts.

**Put the oxygen mask on ourselves first.** We can't help others if we don't first heal and nurture ourselves. Take a walk in the woods. Do some yoga. Meditate. Pray. Whatever grounds and resurrects you, whatever connects you to a deeper reality than what's going on right now, do that.

**Stand with the most vulnerable.** Hate has been released from Pandora's box, and reports of intimidation, harassment and violence are popping up here in the corridor and around Iowa. Stand firm with Muslims, immigrants, people of color, the LGBTQ community, the poor and all those who are likely to suffer the most. Wear a safety pin in solidarity, showing you are a safe person who will stand up

*Karen Nichols is a writer, editor, activist and kid-wrangler living in Iowa City, and she really needs a vacation right about now.*





James Wachutka, co-owner of Flip N' Chop, serves a customer. Photo by Zak Neumann

## KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

We haven't forgotten the taco trucks. • BY LAUREN SHOTWELL

**T**ito Francisco and James Wachutka, the co-owners of the Flip N' Chop food truck, served up lunch outside the University of Iowa Boyd Law Building on a recent afternoon. Francisco flipped dough back and forth between his hands to create the naan bread that would become part of the duo's tandoori chicken dish, one of three plates on offer that day.

The two have been traveling around the area and serving up their internationally-influenced cuisine for the past year, but the challenges of vending in Iowa City mean they haven't spent much time downtown.

"We would like to do more in the evening, but it's hard and it's kind of iffy to go downtown and find a place without stepping on anyone's toes," Wachutka said. "We have a permit, but we haven't used it very much because it's just hard to get out there."

That could change come spring. Iowa City may temporarily open up some new opportunities for local food trucks in 2017 under a 90-day pilot program, allowing trucks to vend in the downtown area during the evenings after many other downtown restaurants close.

"Iowa City is really diverse, with lots of cultural amenities, but it's falling behind in street food," Kyle Sieck, the head chef and owner of Local Burrito, said.

Sieck said he has been speaking with the city to try to loosen some of the current restrictions and encouraging council members to consider the food truck pilot program proposed by the Iowa City Mobile Vending Association.

Under the current regulations, food trucks with a permit are allowed to vend from parking areas on city streets, as long as they are outside of the downtown zone and residential areas, and more than 150 feet away from any restaurants. They are currently only allowed to vend until 9 p.m.

"It's kind of limiting and we want to try something new," Sieck said.

The proposed pilot program would allow six to 10 trucks downtown from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. The group proposed locations along Linn, Clinton and Dubuque streets downtown.

"I would love to see a line of trucks gathering in Iowa City and in the corridor area," Wachutka said, adding that some cities have designated areas where food trucks can gather—something that the mobile vending

association also encouraged the city to consider creating.

"I would love to see that in Iowa City," Wachutka said. "But there's a lot of politics, we're discovering."

Iowa City Manager Geoff Fruin said the city council expressed interest in moving forward with the project during the Nov. 1 city council meeting, but that the details—including how many trucks will be involved and the hours during which they'll be allowed downtown—have yet to be ironed out. He said the goal is to have the pilot program begin in the spring, before the University of Iowa lets out for the summer.

"When we craft the pilot program we'll have to set up a good way to get feedback from businesses downtown and give it a try and consider any permanent changes," Fruin said. "One of our tasks will be to work with the downtown district and those restaurants to figure out how to measure the impact, if there is any, on their businesses."

The current food truck regulations were also developed through a pilot program during the summer of 2014. Before that, mobile vending from public streets was mostly prohibited with the exception of farmers markets and special events. The permitted food carts on the Ped Mall fall under a different set of regulations.

"As a resident of the community, I'm just



a fan of the food truck culture,” Tom Banta, director of strategic growth for the Iowa City Area Development Group, said. “I like the variety and the opportunity for folks to test out their product and see if stuff sticks and maybe one day be able to open up a brick-and-mortar location.”

Banta was one of eighteen people to sign off in support of the Iowa City Mobile Vending Association’s pilot proposal.

He said he understood concerns from established businesses downtown about how the food trucks would impact their businesses, but added that the proposal targeted a time when a number of restaurants shut down.

Charles Jones, owner of the Keepin Up With The Jones’s food truck, who was involved with efforts in Cedar Rapids to get a food truck ordinance passed, said it seemed like efforts in Iowa City were more complicated.

“It helps everyone because it makes people want to come and stay downtown,” Jones said of the food trucks becoming more visible downtown.

Under an ordinance adopted in Cedar Rapids earlier this year, mobile food vendors must be at least 100 feet away from the entrance of any restaurant between 6:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. but can operate between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 2 a.m.

For Wachutka and Francisco, a food truck opened up opportunities that wouldn’t have been possible had they needed to raise the capital for a brick-and-mortar location. They bought the truck, which they’ve dubbed Matilda, from a hamburger-selling Wisconsin cowboy and fixed it up over the summer last year—gutting the inside, painting the outside blue and cutting a new serving window.

They’ve been vending for just over a year now and said some of their best experiences have been at festivals like FRYfest in Coralville.

“There was live music and everyone is out and together and at the end of the night, we can kind of step back and be like, ‘This is what it’s all about,’” Francisco said.

The duo also participated in Science Thursday events over the summer that brought food trucks, live music and science-themed activities to the University of Iowa Medical Education Research Facility.

Jennifer Stout with the Office of Facilities Planning and Management in the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine said the goal of Science Thursdays was to build a sense of community.



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## COMMUNITY DINING CULTURE AREA EVENTS



Tito Francisco, co-owner of Flip N' Chop, makes naan. Photo by Zak Neumann

"The idea is to have food trucks to entice people to attend, with live music and a science- or medicine-based activity to help engage people in conversations," she said in an email. "The hope is that we are creating an environment in which we are encouraging in-person interactions and communication between departments."

During their afternoon at the Boyd Law Building, Wachutka took orders at the window and helped prep plates while Francisco shuffled skillet around on the small stove and squeezed a number of Cuban and BBQ pulled pork sandwiches on the griddle.

Although both men have experience from working in area restaurants, the cramped space of the food truck brought some challenges. They checked off a list of the tasks they share between them: host, server, cook, chef, accountant, marketing director, dishwasher. But they also pointed to the freedoms and the sense of community of the local food truck culture.

"Just the freedom of doing whatever you want to cook," Wachutka said. "It's fun, safe, healthy, local. It's the smallest business you can have."

**"Iowa City is really diverse, with lots of cultural amenities, but it's falling behind in street food."**

— **Kyle Sieck**

They work together to develop new recipes and flavors, including many house-made items like their potato and plantain chips and sauces, and draw from some of their experiences tasting food around the world. Francisco grew up in the Philippines and Wachutka was a self-described Army brat

who spent time in London and Germany.

"Our food is international, so we don't have any barriers," Francisco said. "The food that we serve has those influences from cultures, from other countries. We change it up a little bit. We improvise. But in a way that

people can still recognize the ingredients."

The two still have their day jobs for now, but hope that they'll be serving up dishes from their food truck full-time this coming spring—just in time for the Iowa City pilot program.

"We love what we do and we want to express that and share that," Francisco said. "I grew up with fresh food. If you were eating it, it was butchered and cooked that day. We want to bring that culture here to Iowa and the mobile vending association will do exactly that." **lv**

*Lauren Shotwell is Little Village's news director*



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## BREAD & BUTTER

# BRINGING MORE PEOPLE TO THE TABLE

Community meals spread the holiday spirit. • BY ELEANORE TAFT

**G**athering with others to share a traditional meal is at the heart of many holiday celebrations. However, preparing the ritual festive spread can be an insurmountable expense for those who are already struggling to put food on their tables, or don't have a table in the first place. Several organizations around the Iowa City and Cedar Rapids area are stepping up to make sure everyone has a chance to eat well this holiday season.

The River Community Church has been serving a free Thanksgiving meal for years, and generally hosts 4-500 people. They provide the full traditional spread, and fill the room to capacity three or four times throughout the afternoon, Rand Baldwin, director of connections at the church, said. He added that there is more to the meal than food—it's also about bringing people in the community together.

"We're doing this because we feel there's a need, and, based on history, there seems to be a need," Baldwin said. "Neighbors right down the street from us, anyone who's food insecure, might have trouble making the

traditional meal."

Fourteen percent of Johnson County residents are food insecure, and 40 percent more people live in poverty than the statewide average, according to a 2014 report by the

**"Neighbors right down the street from us, anyone who's food insecure, might have trouble making the traditional meal."**

**—Rand Baldwin**

Iowa Community Indicators Program. The report showed Linn County in better shape, with fewer residents experiencing poverty (9.5 percent) and food insecurity (12.2 percent) than the statewide averages (both

12.6 percent). However, a 2016 report by the Iowa Policy Project found that nearly 19 percent of Iowa households with one or more full-time wage earners do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, and the number jumps to over 60 percent for single-parent families.

In Johnson County, the cost of living is higher than any other county in the state, which contributes to food insecurity. While median gross rent rose 35 percent between 1980 and 2014, renters' average income declined by 13 percent, according to a 2016 study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

According to the study, 57 percent of Johnson County renters are considered housing-cost burdened, meaning over 30 percent of their income is spent on housing.

Public officials have recognized and begun to take action on this crisis. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors allocated \$600,000 for fiscal year 2017 to the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County, and the Iowa

City Council added another \$500,000 this October. Food stamps, food pantries and free meal programs are available year-round to many Johnson and Linn County residents, and there are several organizations in the



*Free Lunch Program. Photo by Zak Neumann*

area that combine produce donations with education.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas, many churches and organizations open their doors, offering diners both a hot meal and people to share it with. St. Mark's and St. Paul's United Methodist Churches in Cedar Rapids are celebrating their 30th free Christmas dinners, and expecting hundreds of guests. St. Paul's will also hand out gifts and groceries. St. Mark's will focus on the religious aspect of the holiday.

"Christmas is more than just a family celebration, it is the Christian Community of Faith coming together to celebrate the birth of Jesus," Becky Figge of St. Mark's said in an email.

Amanda Engstrom, of North Liberty, has been independently coordinating a Thanksgiving meal for the past five years. Engstrom rents the South Slope community center, and relies on volunteers and donations to fund and serve the Hy-Vee catered meal to her 50-60 guests.

Other groups, such as the Salvation Army of Johnson County, provide a grocery box filled with ingredients for a holiday meal. Family is a central value, said Social Ministries Coordinator Rachel Lehmann, and the 500 grocery boxes they distribute allow families to spend Thanksgiving together at home.

Whether you are in need of resources to supply your holiday feast, want to help others by donating food or a few hours of your time, or both, there are many opportunities to celebrate the season of giving (see sidebar). Whatever your celebration, may the holidays bring you a full plate, and good company to share it with. **lv**

*Eleanore Taft is an editor and production manager at Little Village.*

## JOHNSON COUNTY

### Johnson County Crisis Center

1121 S Gilbert Ct., Iowa City, (319) 351-0128

Sign up for a holiday food box: M,W,F: 12-4:30 p.m., Tu: 12-7 p.m.,

Th: 9:30-4:30 p.m. Donations encouraged.

### Free Lunch Program

1105 S Gilbert Ct. Iowa City, (319) 337-6283

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meal. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

### South Slope Community Room

980 N Front St., North Liberty, (319) 530-0135

Thanksgiving meal, to go plates available: 12-4 p.m.

### Salvation Army of Johnson County

1116 S Gilbert Ct., Iowa City, (319) 337-3725

Special meal Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks, closed on holidays.

Meals served M,Tu,Th,F: 4-6 p.m., W: 3-5 p.m. Donations and volunteers needed.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church

228 E. Jefferson St., Iowa City, (319) 337-4314.

Thanksgiving potluck: 1 p.m. Meal delivery available.

### The River Community Church

3001 Muscatine Ave., Iowa City, (319) 354-8118

Thanksgiving meal: 12-5 p.m.

## LINN COUNTY

### Salvation Army of Linn County

1000 C Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids (319) 364-9131

Sign up for Christmas food box: Nov. 14-18 9:30-11:30 a.m. / 1:30-4 p.m.

Nov. 16 4:30-7 p.m. Bring proof of residency, income and I.D.

Thanksgiving meal: Nov. 23, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Christmas meal: Dec. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

### St. Vincent de Paul

928 7th St SE, Cedar Rapids. (319) 365-5091

Sign up for Christmas food box: Bring I.D. for all in household by Nov. 18.

Donations and volunteers needed.

### First Church of the Open Bible

1911 E Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids, (319) 363-3117

Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve meals: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pre-registration required, call to sign up.

### St. Mark's United Methodist Church

4700 Johnson Avenue NW, Cedar Rapids, (319) 396-6361

Christmas meal: 12-2 p.m.

Request home delivery or a ride to the church: call (319) 739-4211 by 11:30 a.m.,

Dec. 22

### St. Paul's United Methodist Church

1340 3rd Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, (319) 363-2058

Christmas Day meal: 12-2 p.m.

### Mission of Hope

1700 B Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, (319) 365-1782

Thanksgiving meal: 12-1 p.m.



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Lindsay Chastain in her studio. Photo by Frankie Schneckloth

## ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

The yearly makers market Not Your Mother's Craft Fair brings in a bounty of handmade area art. • **BY SIMEON TALLEY**

**N**ow in its third year, Not Your Mother's Craft Fair will once again bring together some of the area's top makers, crafters and purveyors of handmade goods. Twenty-seven local makers are participating this year, with all the proceeds from booth and beverage sales going to the non-profit Local Foods Connection. As much as this event is an opportunity to celebrate the DIY community and ethos, the third annual Not Your Mother's Craft Fair is also a signifier of the local makers community's growth.

We caught up with Rachel Roewe, of {made} community, an organizer of Not Your Mother's Craft Fair, and Lindsay Chastain, the designer responsible for Savage Jewelry, to get their perspective on creating, community and more.

### What personal values do you try to express through your work and in what you create?

Roewe: Things can be simple. And beautiful. At {made}, we try to convey this simplicity mantra in our pieces and in our lives.

Chastain: Craftsmanship doesn't necessarily mean impeccable, clean lines or a lack of flaws to me. Intention and consistency are important to me; cohesiveness and aesthetics are important to me. Rough surfaces and textures, scratches, burns and tarnish are interesting and

tell a story of the process the metal goes through to become an object of adornment. I strive to make pieces that are strong, physically and visually—I want them to be able to take a beating and have the capability of becoming heirlooms and artifacts.

### Why is this important to you?

Roewe: We're all rushing around and doing all these big things and it's the little, simple, daily rituals that make our lives feel full and beautiful.

Chastain: I believe jewelry reflects the

wearer—I'm not a perfect human, so I don't expect my jewelry to be a perfect object. In nature, many species have a tell or feature that can either attract a mate or act as a warning; I think of many of my pieces in the same way. It's not just ornamentation, it's a talisman that can empower you when you wear it.

### How do you balance making/creating and life?

Roewe: In the words of my best friend and co-founder, Tiffany Ralston, work/life balance is kind of a farce as an



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entrepreneur—calling it the work/life blur is more accurate. When you create, inspiration comes at weird hours and times; ideas can be sparked almost anywhere and sometimes you just have to stop what you are doing in your real life to do this maker thing.

Chastain: It can be difficult. I still work a day job, try to keep up a social life and maintain a home. Setting aside time to work on jewelry can be a challenge so I try to keep

**“I’m not a perfect human, so I don’t expect my jewelry to be a perfect object.”**

**—Lindsay Chastain**

a deadline—a show, an order, a release—to motivate me. Having a specific time set aside in the studio, whether cleaning it or working or sketching, is helpful. Having friends who inspire you and get excited about the craft are the greatest motivator I’ve found.

**How would you describe the local makers community?**

Roewe: Very supportive of one another. I love that we live in a place that believes in supporting local makers, growers and doers. We all get to do what we love because of those around us who believe in us. It’s this very virtuous cycle.

Chastain: I feel like it is ever-evolving—I find out about someone new every time I go to a show or stop by a store. I think it’s diverse as far as what everyone makes, what processes they use and how they go about getting their brand out there. Local stores that consign handmade goods like White Rabbit and Revival or communities like the Blue Stockings Feminist Art Collective or {made} community are great resources to have that get you in touch with other local makers and provide a venue (whether an art show or a retail space) to get your work out there. **iv**

*Simeon Talley is the sales manager at Little Village.*

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COLORBLIND COMICS

# AN ARTIST'S ADVENTURE

Thomas Hotka chases the McGuffin of success. • BY ROB CLINE



Illustration by Thom Hotka

**T**homas Hotka didn't have a grand plan in mind when he began publishing *Nextuus: The Search for the Ocean Shard* as a web comic.

"I just got the idea to do it that way," Hotka said. "And it's free to post online."

That makes the whole endeavor sound rather casual, but the truth is Hotka has been committed to his comic for a full decade. His love of creating comics goes back even further.

"I've been writing comics since elementary school just to entertain myself," Hotka said.

Hotka, who grew up and resides in Des Moines, works as a trainer for Half Price Books. This job takes him to a variety of stores, including the Cedar Rapids location.

"It's a good gig and still flexible enough that I can pursue this," he said. "But I don't pursue a lot of other hobbies because I don't

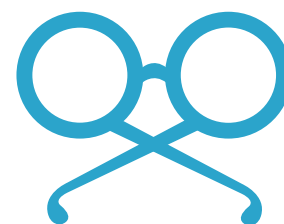
have time."

That's true, in part, because Hotka holds himself to a strict publishing schedule. A new page of *Nextuus* appears each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It is creeping up on 1,000 pages.

**"I'm as close to a one-man band as you can get."**

**—Thomas Hotka**

"When I started out, I was doing it just for me, so a schedule wasn't important," he explained. But as the comic caught on, he dedicated himself to advancing his story with three pages each week.



The story "follow[s] a group of treasure hunters pursuing an item of great value. It's a standard McGuffin." It's a sci-fi/adventure tale, though Hotka said he focuses on the adventure and avoids the research true sci-fi might require.

What shines through, both when you talk to Hotka and when you read his ever-expanding magnum opus, is that he's having great fun. His visual style makes extensive use of facial expressions (and of hidden faces behind various masks). Even in moments of danger and tension, humor underpins his narrative. *Nextuus* is the kind of story that will appeal to fans of *Star Wars* or *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension* or *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Hotka accomplishes all of that with humble tools.

"I'm pretty low-tech," he said. "All of my pages are written on regular paper with regular pens." He then scans the lines and uses "a lot of fill tool" for the colors. He draws the comic at the actual size it will appear online. "There's no scaling up," he said.

Hotka's personality and enthusiasm for his project allow the web comic format to serve him well. He provides commentary for many of the pages and keeps a running conversation going with his readers. He also encourages fans and other artists to create images of his characters, which he shares in the comments section of each page.

Nevertheless, he decided fairly early in the project that he should produce physical

books as well.

Though he's quick to admit that he "[doesn't] know anything about 'real' comics," he also said he was convinced "getting a first book out was important."

The challenge was transferring what worked on an electronic page onto a physical page.

"It was really interesting putting my first book together, because I hadn't designed it for that. Now I draw them with that in mind."

Hotka's friend Trey Petersen gets a co-writer credit on *Nextuus*. Hotka said Petersen helps him brainstorm ideas, punch up dialogue and get out of corners he's written himself into. "He's kind of my idea man."

But Hotka is the primary force behind the comic.

"I'm as close to a one-man band as you can get. For *Nextuus*, I'm the show."

That show is enjoyed by a dedicated fan base.

"I don't pull down huge numbers, but I have people who check it out every time a new page comes out," Hotka said.

For now, that seems to satisfy him.

"I don't have big aspirations to work for a big comic company. I like telling my own stories ... I like to tell people this is what I do, but do I want to try to make it a sole source of income or am I happy with it being a passion project? I don't know. It's crazy to think about this stuff."

*Nextuus* is still exploring various twists and turns, but Hotka maintains he's headed toward a final destination.

"There is an end. It's a long story, but there is an end, and we're closer to the end than when we started!"

You can read *Nextuus* online at [nextuus.com](http://nextuus.com). The print editions are available from retailers including Daydreams Comics in Iowa City, Next Page Books in Cedar Rapids and Alter Ego Comics in Marion. **lv**

*Born colorblind and therefore convinced he'd never enjoy graphic forms of storytelling, Rob Cline was first bitten by the comics bug in college. The resulting virus lay dormant for many years before it was activated by the inscrutable work of Grant Morrison. Now Cline seeks out the good and bad across the comics landscape as the Colorblind Comics Critic.*

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**A-LIST****'THE NUTCRACKER' REIMAGINED**

Author and illustrator Brian Selznick talks about his latest project: a striking new collaboration with the Joffrey Ballet.

BY GENEVIEVE TRAINOR

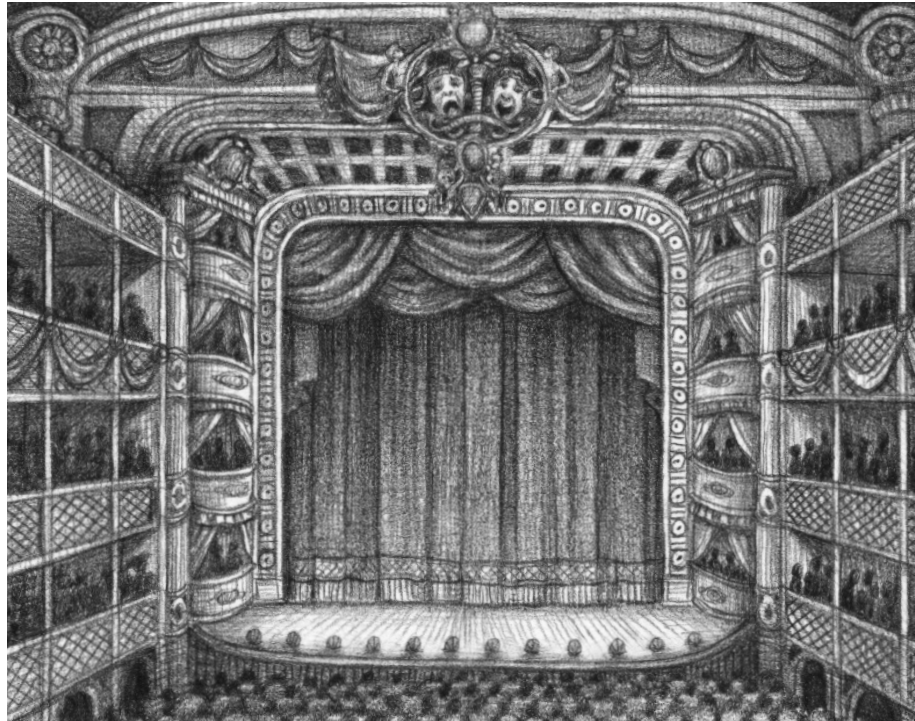


Illustration from 'Wonderstruck,' by Brian Selznick

In 1987, Chicago's renowned Joffrey Ballet premiered their version of *The Nutcracker* at the University of Iowa's Hancher Auditorium. Now, nearly 30 years later, they've returned to do the same again—but this new staging makes some bolder changes to the story, as well.

Enter Brian Selznick. The Caldecott Medal-winner (for 2007's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*) was brought in by the ballet to craft this new imagining. Selznick, a writer and illustrator, published his first book (*The Houdini Box*) in 1991, and has gone on to become a giant in the world of children's literature. He brings a delightful grasp of whimsy and wonder to this production.

The Joffrey Ballet's new *Nutcracker* premieres on Dec. 1 at the Hancher and runs through Dec. 4. Tickets are \$20–75. There is also a gala reception on Dec. 3. In addition to Selznick, the all-star design team assembled by choreographer Christopher Wheeldon includes puppeteer Basil Twist, who was in town this September, and scenic designer Julian Crouch (*Shockhead Peter*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*). Selznick answered questions for us via email recently while in London.

**Your work as an illustrator is as well-known as your work as an author, and your most popular works feature both of your skills. How has it been to work on this story-focused project, with the visuals being handled in such a significantly different way?** I was happily surprised to discover how similar creating an illustrated book and creating a

ballet turned out to be. Before I draw pictures for my books, I write outlines of the narrative and then describe what I want each drawing to be. I don't start drawing until these descriptions are finished. Since a ballet is mainly a visual experience for the audience (plus music of course), I was able to talk to Chris [Wheeldon] about what was important to him in the story

and then create an outline that was based purely on images, movement and characters. As an example of what I'm talking about, this is my opening for the outline of the ballet, from which Chris created the choreography.

After I describe the location, which is a construction site destined to become the Chicago World's Fair, in the winter, 1892, I wrote: "Rich families in fancy winter clothes flood the stage carrying gifts. Their servants follow carrying even more wrapped boxes. They are on their way to a fancy party. It is very cold out. The rich children stop and look at the sign for the fair. They point. Their parents hurry the children along. In their wake, we see a poor girl with a bag hanging from her shoulder. This is MARIE. She is lonely and full of dreams."

It's up to Chris to figure out how to transform that into movement, and it's up to the designer Julian Crouch to figure out what that construction zone looks like and what everyone is wearing. It was a thrill to work with these brilliant artists, to see how they interpret the story I helped come up with.

**Have you done collaborative work of this sort before? What's your favorite aspect of cross-disciplinary collaboration?** This is my first experience collaborating on this type of work. Of course, all my work is collaborative on some level, even my books, which are created with a lot of help from my editor Tracy Mack at Scholastic, but usually I come up with the stories and do all the design work myself. I've written the screenplay for a movie adaptation of my book *Wonderstruck*, currently being directed by Todd Haynes, and, while Todd was involved in some final polishing of the screenplay, it's still my story from start to finish. The real collaboration is between Todd and all the amazing artists helping to realize the film, like the production designer, costume designer and editor. I felt lucky just to watch them work.

*The Nutcracker* is the first time I've worked with someone to actually create a new story and it turned out to be very challenging and great fun. I was nervous, never having written a ballet before, but I knew I was in the best



hands with Chris, and that he knew the music and the original story inside out. He was able to guide me as we figured out where our new version needed to track the traditional narrative and where we could comfortably set out in new directions.

**You grew up quite close to where I did—East Brunswick, NJ (I'm from Cranford, in Union County). It's an area rife with storytellers and inventors. How do you feel your particular upbringing prepared you for a career in writing for children? What are some of your favorite central Jersey childhood memories?** I was lucky to grow up in a school system with wonderful art classes from kindergarten through high school. I was nurtured by my art teachers and did theater as

**“*The Nutcracker* is the first time I’ve worked with someone to actually create a new story and it turned out to be very challenging and great fun.”**

well, which became a huge influence on the work I’ve done since. I also found a wonderful private art teacher to study with after school named Eileen Sutton. She was a big influence on me as well.

**Why the Chicago World’s Fair? Was that your pitch to the ballet, or a concept they brought to you?** When Chris approached me about working on the ballet, he said he had two ideas to start with: setting the story in the Chicago World’s Fair as a way of celebrating the home of the Joffrey Ballet, and telling a version of the story about a poor family, not a rich one as is usually done. He wanted to retain magical elements of *The Nutcracker* that everyone knows and loves, but was open to finding a new narrative that worked with the beloved score. I was eager to dive in.

I watched about five hundred different versions of *The Nutcracker* online, read the original ETA Hoffmann book, saw interviews with Chris on YouTube and went to see his

Broadway show *An American In Paris* to understand how he brilliantly tells a story. We polished the narrative for about a year before rehearsals actually began on the ballet.

**What is your history with ballet as an art form? Were you a fan before beginning this project?** About ten years ago, I played the arms of the title character in a puppet version of the ballet *Petrushka*, directed and choreographed by Basil Twist, who is now collaborating on *The Nutcracker*. We used Bunraku-style puppets with three puppeteers on each puppet, one on the head and back, one on the legs and one on the arms.

Basil’s idea was that humans play puppets in *Petrushka* by acting stiff and jerky, but if you have puppets actually play them they can

do that no human can do, like fly and move in slow motion. We also played other more abstract elements for the show, like giant hands, cardboard Russian landscapes and giant swaying

**—Brian Selznick**

fabrics. It was a real extravaganza, with a score played live by twin Russian pianists on back to back grand pianos.

**Are there plans in the works for a picture book to accompany this Joffrey collaboration?** Maurice Sendak was a friend of mine and he designed a gorgeous production of *The Nutcracker* for the Portland Ballet and then turned it into a stunning book. This idea is really exciting and we’ve certainly discussed ways in which to create a book version of our ballet. I have lots of ideas and it would be fun to collaborate with Julian Crouch on the images, but right now the book remains, like Marie’s visit to the World’s Fair in our story, a dream. **lv**

*Genevieve Trainor believes in the power of art to change perceptions and change lives.*



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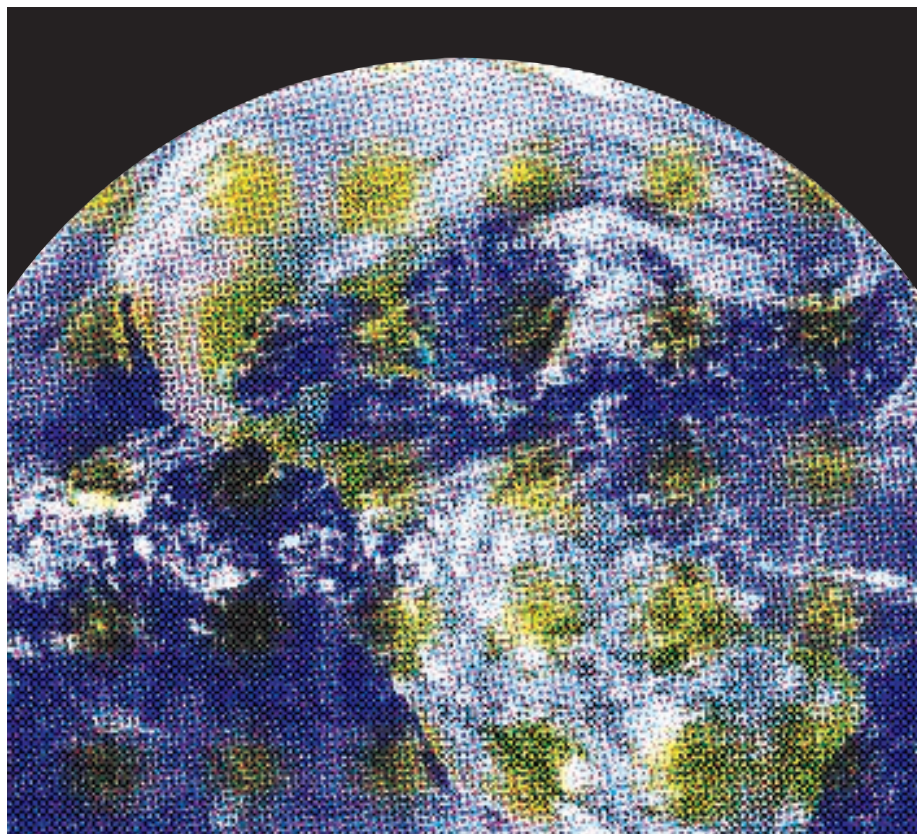
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## AREA EVENTS

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### JOE PALCA, NPR SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT 100 Phillips Hall, Wednesday,

**Nov. 16, 7 p.m., Free** Joe Palca presents a talk entitled "Reporting on Remarkable Science and Remarkable Scientists." The longtime NPR science correspondent (he's been with the station since 1992) currently focuses his work on the series 'Joe's Big Idea,' which explores the transitions between ideas and innovation. Palca has a Ph. D. in psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His presentation is centered on the process of discovery and the motivations of those who are driven to discover. Palca's visit is sponsored by the University of Iowa Public Policy Center's Forkenbrock Series, created to honor David Forkenbrock, who established the PPC in 1987. The goal of the series is to establish a dialogue between applied, academic and interdisciplinary perspectives.

**Are you planning an event?** Submit event info to [calendar@littlevillagemag.com](mailto:calendar@littlevillagemag.com).

Include event name, date, time, venue, street address, admission price and a brief description (no all-caps, exclamation points or advertising verbiage, please). To find more events, visit [littlevillagemag.com/calendar](http://littlevillagemag.com/calendar).



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## WED., NOV. 16

**/FAMILY:** Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

**/MUSIC:** Music on Wednesday @ICPL: Preucil School of Music, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free

John Paul White, *The Mill*, 8 p.m., \$17-20

**/LITERATURE:** Winter Wednesdays: Local Authors and Artists, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 4:30 p.m., Free

**NaNoWriMo Iowa City**, Iowa City Public Library, 6 p.m., Free

**Vi Khi Nao**, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

**An Evening with Lois Lowry**, The Englert Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Free

**/FOODIE:** Hancher's Culinary Arts: Atlas & Basta, Hancher, 5 p.m., \$40

**/CRAFTY:** Knitting: Beginner Flax Pullover Sweater (Four Session Class), Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$80

**Cut, Clutter, and Collage: Dredging The Dream Machine**, Fueling Farrago Factory, Public Space One, 6 p.m., \$12

**/EDUCATION:** Joe Palca: Reporting on Remarkable Science and Remarkable Scientists, Phillips Hall, 7 p.m., Free

**/COMMUNITY:** Iowa City Climate Advocates September Meeting, Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 7 p.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

**By Any Means Necessary 2**, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5

**/CINEMA:** Late Shift At The Grindhouse: 'Amityville: No Escape,' FilmScene, 10 p.m., \$4

## THU., NOV. 17

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** University of Iowa Museum of Art: Arts of Africa, Iowa City Senior Center, 10 a.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30

**The After Hour with Andrew King**, Daytrotter, 7 p.m., Free

**Triple Espresso**, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

**Drew Lynch**, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50

**/LITERATURE:** Art Lover's Book Club: 'The Bayeux Tapestry' by Carola Hicks, Cedar Rapids Museum Of Art, 4 p.m., Free



**Civic Labors: Panel Discussion on Engaged Scholarship and Activism**, *Prairie Lights Books & Cafe*, 7 p.m., Free

**Midwest Writing Center Presents: Spectra & Out Loud Open Mic w/ Vi Khi Nao w/ Holly Thomas**, *Rozz-Tox*, 7 p.m., Free

**/CRAFTY: Alterations: Shirts, Home Ec. Workshop**, 6 p.m., \$30

**/MUSIC: Steve and Michaela McLain**, *Cafe Paradiso*, 6 p.m., Free

**Whiskey Myers w/ The Wans, John David Kent**, *Blue Moose Tap House*, 8 p.m., \$13-15

**Kip Moore w/ Jon Pardi**, *US Cellular Center*, 8 p.m., \$35-122

**Copper Alligator and Rawson's Daughter Holiday Fashion Show**, *Lion Bridge Brewing Company*, 8 p.m., Free

**Rumpke Mountain Boys w/ The Cerny Brothers**, *Iowa City Yacht Club*, 9:30 p.m., \$6

**/COMMUNITY: WorldCanvass: Fracking and the Iowa Divide**, *Voxman Music Building*, 6:30 p.m., Free

**/CINEMA: 'Listopad' and Q&A with Film Producer Jeffrey Brown**, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*, 7 p.m., Free-\$5

## FRI., NOV. 18

**/EDUCATION: Kirkwood English Conversation Club**, *Iowa City Public Library*, 10 a.m., Free

**/FAMILY: Doodlebugs: Wild Paints**, *Hiawatha Public Library*, 10:30 a.m., Free

**/CRAFTY: New Class: Gyrls Night Out, Snowflake Earrings**, *Beadology Iowa*, 5:30 p.m., \$58  
**Craft Party: Screen Printed Potholders**, *Home Ec. Workshop*, 6 p.m., \$35

**/MUSIC: Friday Night Live Music w/ Justin Goodchild**, *Cedar Ridge Distillery*, 6 p.m., Free  
**Chase Garrett's 7th Annual Blues & Boogie Woogie Piano Stomp**, *The Englert Theatre*, 7 p.m., \$30-45

**The Ragbirds w/ Christopher the Conquered**, *River Music Experience Redstone Room*, 7:30 p.m., \$11.50-14

**Alan Jackson: Keepin' It Country Tour**, *iWireless Center*, 7:30 p.m., \$44.50-74.50

**Nolaret**, *Cafe Paradiso*, 8 p.m., Free

**Susan Werner w/ Dave Moore**, *Legion Arts CSPPS Hall*, 8 p.m., \$25-30

**An Evening with Three Women and the Truth** Featuring Mary Gauthier, Eliza Gilkyson, Gretchen Peters, *The Mill*, 8 p.m., \$25-30

**Infinite Universe: A Sound Journey Navigated by Higgy**, *Rozz-Tox*, 8 p.m., Free

**Buddy Guy: Born to Play Guitar with Special Guest Paul Cebar**, *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 8 p.m., \$55-85



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## AREA EVENTS

**/MUSIC:** Lady Luck, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8:30 p.m., Free  
Commanders w/ Otros Outros, Porchburner, Brian Johannesen, Gabe's, 9 p.m., \$7  
Abra, Gardner Lounge - Grinnell College, 9 p.m., Free  
The Cerney Brothers w/ The Velies, Daytrotter, 9 p.m., \$10-12  
Matt Cox w/ Coyote, Cold River City, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$5  
**/LITERATURE:** Joseph Dobrian, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free  
**/SPORTS-AND-REC:** Cedar Rapids Rampage vs. Milwaukee Wave, US Cellular Center, 7:05 p.m., \$14-40  
**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30  
Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46  
Greg Hahn w/ David Tobey, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., Free-26  
'Another Show of Gratitude,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$22

## SAT., NOV. 19

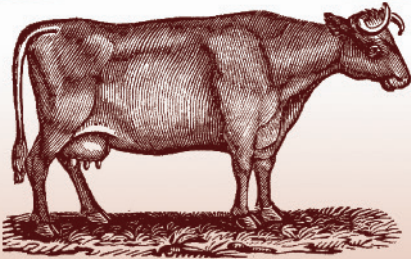
**/COMMUNITY:** Timeless Toys at Christmas, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, 9 a.m., \$3-10  
**/FAMILY:** Scouts: Daisies Using Resources Wisely, Iowa Children's Museum, 9:30 a.m., Free  
Totally Tweens: Annual Chess Tournament, Iowa City Public Library, 1 p.m., Free  
**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Autumn in Watercolors, Indian Creek Nature Center, 10 a.m., \$18-20  
**/COMMUNITY:** Psychic & Paranormal Expo, iWireless Center, 10 a.m., Free  
Lighting On The Commons, iWireless Center, 3:30 p.m., Free  
**/CRAFTY:** New Class: Tree of Life Pendant, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$68  
Sewing: Felt Bird Ornament, Home Ec. Workshop, 1 p.m., \$35  
**/MUSIC:** Holiday Pops: Communities in Concert!, Adler Theatre, 2 & 8 p.m., \$13-53  
Farewell, My Love w/ The Funeral Portrait, Once Around, Switchblade Saturdays, Gabe's, 6 p.m., \$13-15  
English Country Dance, Iowa City Senior Center, 7 p.m., \$3-6  
21 Savage, Blue Moose Tap House, 7 p.m., \$29.50-100  
Moriah the Medium, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m., \$22-25  
Ron White, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7 p.m., \$48-233



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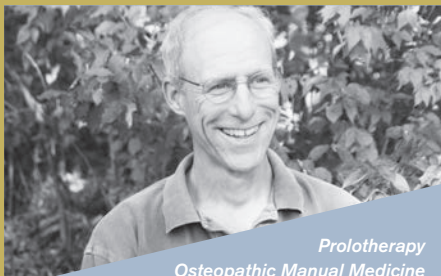
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## AREA EVENTS



**THE PINES** Cafe Paradiso, Sunday, Nov. 27, 8 p.m., Free Beloved Iowa folk/blues rockers The Pines (David Huckfelt, Benson Ramsey and Alex Ramsey) are rooted deeply in the traditions of Iowa music. They're touring the area this fall, including a stop at CSPS in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, Nov. 26 (with Seth Wegner) and this performance in Fairfield on Sunday, Nov. 27. The Pines released their most recent album, 'Above the Prairie,' in February of this year; the 'Little Village' review noted that "with a cinematographer's precision, they carve out a space in their progressions that reflects the expansiveness of their prairie home."

**/MUSIC:** Hairball, US Cellular Center, 7:30 p.m., \$25-27

**Des Moines Symphony Masterworks 3: Romeo & Rach 2**, Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., \$17

**Manheim Steamroller Christmas**, US Cellular Center, 8 p.m., Free-\$73

**Stand Against DAPL Fundraiser Concert**, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$10

**Greg Brown**, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., \$30-33

**Stoney LaRue**, First Avenue Club, 8 p.m., \$20  
**Joe Nichols**, Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, 8 p.m., \$20-50

**Jason Stuart: Cobalt Blue**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

**Lady Luck**, Riverside Casino Show Lounge, 8 p.m., Free

**Maks the Fox**, Rozz-Tox, 9 p.m., \$5-10

**River Glen w/ The Weathered Heads**, Crystal City, Blue Moose Tap House, 9 p.m., \$8

**Night Pits w/ Nomadic Youth**, Maiden Mars, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, 9:30 p.m., \$5

**Frogleg w/ EGI**, Iowa City Yacht Club, 10 p.m., \$8

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 5 p.m., \$36-46

**Winter Wonderettes**, Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30

**Greg Hahn**, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$23-26

**Triple Espresso**, The Temple Theater, 8 p.m., \$36-46

**'Another Show of Gratitude'**, Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$22

**/SPORTS-AND-REC:** Wisdom Weekend Meditation Retreat, Lamrim Kadampa Buddhist Center, All Day, \$35

## SUN., NOV. 20

**/COMMUNITY:** Psychic & Paranormal Expo, iWireless Center, 10 a.m., Free

**/CRAFTY:** Sewing: Wanderlust T-Shirt, Home Ec. Workshop, 12 p.m., \$55

**Make Your Own Stein At Lion Bridge Brewing**, Lion Bridge Brewing Company, 2 p.m., \$35

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Janice Ball: Water Color Artist—How to Compose with Value, Iowa City Senior Center, 1 p.m., Free

**Artifactory's Life Drawing Drop-in Session**, Beadology Iowa, 5 p.m., \$8

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30

**Triple Espresso**, The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., \$36-46



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**/MUSIC:** Des Moines Symphony Masterworks

**3: Romeo & Rach 2,** Des Moines Civic Center, 2:30 p.m., \$15

**Iowa City Community String Orchestra,** The Englert Theatre, 3 p.m., Free

**Family Folk Machine Presents: Rise Up and Sing!**, Old Capitol Senate Chamber, 3 p.m., Free

**Ethereal Grove Inc.,** Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 4 p.m., Free

**Polyrhythms Third Sunday Jazz Workshop & Matinee Series Presents Manuel Lopez III,** River Music Experience Redstone Room, 6 p.m., \$10-15

**Dave Tamkin,** Dick's Tap & Shake, 7 p.m., Free

**The Lowest Pair & The Last Revel,** Legion Arts CSPA Hall, 7 p.m., \$15-18

**LowFaith w/ Archeress,** Deer Surround Our Home, Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., \$5-10

**/FOODIE:** Murder Mystery Dinner: Murder at Bunny & Clyde's, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 5 p.m., \$58

**/LITERATURE:** Free Generative Writing Workshop, Public Space One, 5:30 p.m., Free

## MON., NOV. 21

**/CRAFTY:** Experimental Silkscreen Monotypes, Public Space One, 6 p.m., \$78

**/MUSIC:** Community Concerts: FIR, Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 7:30 p.m., \$45-60

## TUE., NOV. 22

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Curator Guided Tour of 'Amadeus: Costumes for the Obsessed and Vengeful,' National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., Free



### **THE WEEPIES: Completely Acoustic and Alone** The Englert Theatre,

**Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m., \$30-33** Indie-pop sweethearts The Weepies—Deb Talan & Steve Tannen—bring their delightful sound to the Englert on Nov. 20. The pair's fifth studio album, 'Sirens,' was released in April of last year after a long and winding road through struggle and joy. They had begun writing for the album just prior to a diagnosis of breast cancer for Deb slowed their busy lives way down. Nothing could stop them completely, though, and they continued writing and recording through her recovery. They are joined at the Englert by opening act Lucy Wainright Roche, who was last in town at The Mill in September.

**/LITERATURE:** Library-Community Writing Center, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free

**The Violet Realm by the Iowa Writers' House,** Iowa City Public Library, Room B, 6 p.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'Paw Patrol Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 6 p.m., \$19-73

**/MUSIC:** University of Iowa Museum of Art Annual John M. Chadima Concert, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 7 p.m., Free

**JJ Grey & Mofro, Part of RME Presents: Blues & Roots Series,** River Music Experience Redstone Room, 8 p.m., \$40



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## AREA EVENTS



**LIVING OUR TRUTHS: A Celebration of National Coming Out Day & Trans Awareness Week** The Mill, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 8 p.m., \$0-10 Iowa City Pride is once again bringing together community members to tell their stories—this time, in celebration of both National Coming Out Day, which fell on Oct. 11, and Trans Awareness Week, which was Nov. 14–20. Community members are encouraged sign up to speak the truths they're living through the Sign Up Genius link at the Facebook page for the event. Admission is a suggested \$10 donation, and the event is open to all ages. Photo by Ted Eytan.

## WED., NOV. 23

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'Paw Patrol Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 10 a.m., \$19-73

'Paw Patrol Live!,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 2 & 6 p.m., \$19-73

**Triple Espresso,** The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

**Josh Blue,** Penguin's Comedy Club, 7:30 p.m., \$25-27.50

**/FAMILY:** Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**Story Play,** Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Winter Wednesdays:

'Amadeus' Tour, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 4:30 p.m., Free

**/CRAFTY:** Knitting: Beginner Flax Pullover Sweater (Four Session Class), Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$80

**/LITERATURE:** The Scarlet Room by The Iowa Writers' House, Coralville Public Library, 6:30 p.m., Free

A black and white advertisement for Reunion Brewery Restaurant. On the right, a man with a beard, identified as Logan DePover, Head Brewer, stands with his arms crossed next to large industrial brewing tanks. On the left, large stylized text reads 'Reunion BREWERY RESTAURANT HAVE FUN.' Below this, the address '516 2nd Street, Coralville' and website 'reunionbrewery.com' are listed, along with the phone number '(319) 337-3000' and the Twitter handle '@reunionbrewery'.

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**/MUSIC:** Banjoy Plays Bluegrass, *The Mill*, 7 p.m., \$5

**Dickieversary Show!** Dickie w/ DOSH!, *Dick's Tap & Shake*, 7 p.m., Free

**New Holland w/ Riala**, *Rozz-Tox*, 8 p.m., \$5-10

**All Sweat Productions Presents: The Last Waltz**, *River Music Experience Redstone Room*, 8 p.m., \$13.75-17

## THU., NOV. 24

**/MUSIC:** The Cantafios, *Cafe Paradiso*, 6 p.m., Free

**Ragged Records Presents: Mama, the Rubs**, *Harakiri, Rozz-Tox*, 7 p.m., \$5-10

## FRI., NOV. 25

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, *Brucemore*, 10 a.m., Free-7

**/FOODIE:** Sweets with Santa, *Coralville Center for the Performing Arts*, 10:30 a.m., \$10-12

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, *The Temple Theater*, 2 p.m., \$36-46

**Winter Wonderettes**, *Old Creamery Theatre*, 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30

**Triple Espresso**, *The Temple Theater*, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

**'RENT,'** *Des Moines Civic Center*, 7:30 p.m., \$30-113

**Comedy XPeriment**, *Stoner Studio Theater*, 7:30 p.m., \$12

**'Little Women,'** *Giving Tree Theater*, 8 p.m., \$15-30

**Isaac Witty w/ Owen Thomas**, *Penguin's Comedy Club*, 8 p.m., \$12-15

**/MUSIC:** Bob Dorr & the Blue Band, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, 2 p.m., Free

**Friday Night Live Music w/ Terry McCauley**, *Cedar Ridge Distillery*, 6 p.m., Free

**Irish Christmas in America**, *Legion Arts CSPPS Hall*, 8 p.m., \$30-35

**The Last Waltz Tribute**, *The Mill*, 8 p.m., \$15

**An Evening with Lisa Loeb**, *River Music Experience Redstone Room*, 8 p.m., \$27.50-27.75

**/FAMILY:** STEM Family Free Night, *Iowa Children's Museum*, 5 p.m., Free

**/CINEMA:** 365 Horror Films X Factory of Fear Presents: Wes Craven Night, *Rozz-Tox*, 6 p.m., Free

## SAT., NOV. 26

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'The Elves and The Shoemaker,' *Old Creamery Theatre*, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., \$10

**'RENT,'** *Des Moines Civic Center*, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$30-113

**Triple Espresso**, *The Temple Theater*, 5 & 8 p.m., \$36-46

**Comedy XPeriment**, *Stoner Studio Theater*, 7:30 p.m., \$12

**Winter Wonderettes**, *Old Creamery Theatre*, 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30

**Isaac Witty w/ Owen Thomas**, *Penguin's Comedy Club*, 8 p.m., \$12-15

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'Little Women,' *Giving Tree Theater*, 8 p.m., \$15-30

**/LITERATURE:** First Words, *Iowa City Public Library*, 10 a.m., Free

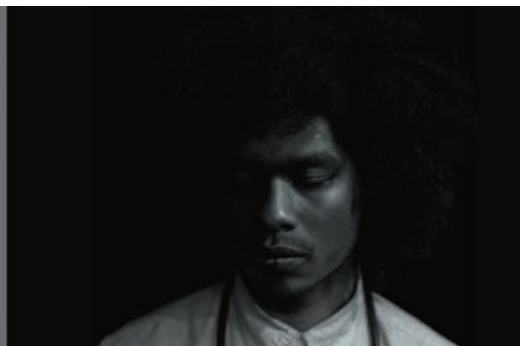


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## AREA EVENTS

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., \$3-7

**/CRAFTY:** Make 2 Bracelets: Intro to Stringing, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., \$58

Make 3 Pairs of Earrings: Intro to Wirework, Beadology Iowa, 1 p.m., \$58

**/MUSIC:** 'Play, Mozart, Play!' Storytime, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1 p.m., Free

Live Music w/ Kevin "B.F." Burt, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 5 p.m., Free

Drama Major, River Music Experience Community Stage, 5:30 p.m., Free

Branson on the Road, Ohnward Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m., \$13-25

Barn Dance, Iowa City Senior Center, 7:30 p.m., \$5-15

Holiday Ramble: Crisis Center Benefit, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$10

The Pines w/ Seth Wenger, Legion Arts CSPP Hall, 8 p.m., \$16-19

The Weepies: Completely Acoustic and Alone, The Englert Theatre, 8 p.m., \$30-33

DOSH w/ GOSH, Errol Hem, Daytrotter, 8 p.m., \$8-10

**/COMMUNITY:** A Peaceful Thanksgiving: BENNIEfit for the Iowa Farm Sanctuary, Public Space One, 5 p.m., \$5

Festival of Trees, Brown Deer Golf Club, 6:30 p.m., \$25-35

## SUN., NOV. 27

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'RENT,' Des Moines Civic Center, 1 & 6:30 p.m., \$30-113

Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30

Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 3 p.m., \$36-46

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 1 p.m., \$3-7

**/FAMILY:** Super Hero Night, Iowa Children's Museum, 6 p.m., Free

**/MUSIC:** Jordan Bruce & the Derelectrics, Dick's Tap & Shake, 7 p.m., Free

The Pines, Cafe Paradiso, 8 p.m., Free

**/CINEMA:** Rozz-Tox Arthaus Film Series: 'Enter the Void,' Rozz-Tox, 8 p.m., Free



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## AREA EVENTS



**JUCIFER w/ Acoustic Guillotine & In the Mouth of Radness** Gabe's, Friday, Dec. 2, 10 p.m., \$10 For 23 years, husband and wife duo Jucifer have been utterly wrecking fans with their extreme, fast-paced, raw power sludge metal. Gazelle Amber Valentine (guitar and vocals) and Edgar Livengood (drums) formed the band in 1993 in music mecca Athens, Georgia, and have been touring incessantly ever since, earning them a nomadic reputation and spurring the creation of 'NOMADS: Build To Destroy,' a documentary film incorporating tour footage scheduled for release next year. The pair are titans on the scene, notorious for their sheer volume and the wall of sound they produce. They are joined at Gabe's by Iowa City metal acts Acoustic Guillotine and In the Mouth of Radness. Photo by Jaime Garcia Perez.

### MON., NOV. 28

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

**/FAMILY:** Toddler Storytime: with Nancy, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**/LITERATURE:** Story Play, Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'Elf The Musical,' Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids, 6:30 p.m., \$59-79

**/MUSIC:** John Berry, Adler Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$38-48

### TUE., NOV. 29

**/COMMUNITY:** Global Voices, Local Actions: Art of Community Summit, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 8:30 a.m., Free

**/FAMILY:** Toddler Storytime: with Angie, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 12 p.m., Free

**/LITERATURE:** Library-Community Writing Center, Iowa City Public Library, 4 p.m., Free

Jennifer Kronovet, Prairie Lights Books & Cafe, 7 p.m., Free

**/MUSIC:** I Prevail w/ Sleepwave, Hotel Books, Bad Seed Rising, Gabe's, 5:30 p.m., \$18-22  
Blues Jam, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 7 p.m., Free

**/FOODIE:** 'Elf The Musical' Pre-Show Dinner, The RiverCenter, 5:30 p.m., \$25

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** 'Elf The Musical,' Adler Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Free

### WED., NOV. 30

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., \$3-7

**/CRAFTY:** 20% Off Loose Bead Sale, Beadology Iowa, 10 a.m., Free

**Knitting:** Beginner Flax Pullover Sweater (Four Session Class), Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$80

**Sewing:** Christmas Stocking, Home Ec. Workshop, 6 p.m., \$25

**/FAMILY:** Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**Story Play,** Iowa City Public Library, 11:30 a.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30

**/COMMUNITY:** Living Our Truths: A Celebration of National Coming Out Day & Trans Awareness Day, The Mill, 7:30 p.m., \$10

### THU., DEC. 1

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., \$3-7

**/FAMILY:** Preschool Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**/EDUCATION:** Life Lessons from UI Students, Iowa Memorial Union, 12 p.m., Free

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### AREA EVENTS

**/EDUCATION:** Prohibition: Part 1, Old Capitol Museum, 5:30 p.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30

Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,' iWireless Center, 7 p.m., \$8-55

'Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical,' Des Moines Civic Center, 7 p.m., \$24-54

Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

The Joffrey Ballet Presents: 'The Nutcracker,' Hancher, 7:30 p.m., \$20-75

**/CRAFTY:** Gems of Hope Workshop, Beadology Iowa, 6 p.m., Free

**/MUSIC:** Steve and Michaela McLain, Cafe Paradiso, 6 p.m., Free

University of Iowa Jazz Performance, The Mill, 6:30 p.m., \$3-5

Joseph Hall: Elvis Rock 'n Remember Christmas Show 2016, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$12-37

John Marcinek Band w/ the Low Down, River Music Experience Redstone Room, 9 p.m., \$11.50-14

**/LITERATURE:** Bennett Sims Reading, Dey House, 8 p.m., Free

### FRI., DEC. 2

**/FAMILY:** Read on the Rug: 'Animals in Winter,' Old Capitol Museum, 10 a.m., Free

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Brucemore, 10 a.m., \$3-7

**/LITERATURE:** Ritzy Rhythms and Sassy Poems, Iowa City Senior Center, 2 p.m., Free

**/COMMUNITY:** Dogs Forever Holiday Bazaar, Artisan's Sanctuary, 5 p.m., Free

**/MUSIC:** First Friday Jazz December, Opus Concert Cafe, 5 p.m., \$12

Brook Hoover's Rockabilly Throwdown, Cedar Ridge Distillery, 6 p.m., Free

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, Des Moines Civic Center, 7:30 p.m., \$40-85

The Magnetos, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, 8 p.m., Free

Switchback, The Mill, 8 p.m., \$12-15

PHOX, Gardner Lounge - Grinnell College, 9 p.m., Free

Jucifer w/ Acoustic Guillotine, In the Mouth of Radness, Gabe's, 10 p.m., \$10

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,' iWireless Center, 7 p.m., Free-55

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Young Footliters Presents: 'A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m., Free



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**D**ear Kiki,  
*I am adopted and so are BOTH of my parents, and we all live in the same small town we were born in. I have serious fears about accidentally hooking up with a biological relative. I go so far as to avoid intimacy until I have asked my partner who their relatives are and if they're aware of any adoptions in their family. Which is sort of weird on a first date. Don't judge me. I'd like to be able to enjoy the prime of my life without worrying if I'm boning my brother. I guess my question is, should I move away?*

—Are You My?

Dear Are You My?,

Holy cow. So, my first instinct is, yes you should absolutely move away, because everybody deserves a break from living in the same village as both of their parents for their entire life.

If you do stick around, go out and have some fun with someone you just met—even if they are a missing relative, it's not going to kill you. Unless you accidentally make a baby with your long-lost twin, the odds are decent that you can enjoy dating and hooking up with whomever you like without fear. This isn't like *Flowers in the Attic* here, and you're taking a lot of precautions to avoid taking a tumble with your genetic soul mate.

If someone is raised as your sibling or cousin, there are strong taboos that prevent most of us from being romantic with that person. Those fairly modern taboos are designed to keep the water in the gene pool flowing, and maximize a family's ability to own property by inheriting or merging with other families.

Keep in mind that in many cultures around the world, and even here in the states, marrying a first cousin is often legal, and sometimes considered favorable. In Ye Olde Olden Tymes, people married their brothers, sisters,

aunts, uncles and cousins all the dang time, like it was no thing, and the human species has managed to remain civilized and reach catastrophic numbers despite it. Among the Sherpa of Nepal, a woman can marry two or three brothers, who then take turns working on Himalayan expeditions for months at a time. This concentrates the property of the men in one family and ensures that the woman bears children who are genetically similar. Try figuring out who's related in that village.

**See how related you are before you accidentally cook up the next Lannister kid.**

Say you were to meet someone, fall in love and eventually discuss marrying or making babies with them—it may be wise to do some deeper background research and/or blood testing at that point to see how related you are before you accidentally cook up the next Lannister kid. For now, I think making sure you're really solid on birth control, and discussing

your mildly paranoid fears with partners on the third or fourth date are perfectly acceptable precautions.

Actually, nevermind. You should just move to a large city. Get out of there, date people who look absolutely nothing like you, and smooch without fear. —xoxo, Kiki **lv**



Questions about love and sex in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids area can be submitted to [dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com](mailto:dearkiki@littlevillagemag.com), or anonymously at [littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki](http://littlevillagemag.com/dearkiki). Questions may be edited for clarity and length, and may appear either in print or online at [littlevillagemag.com](http://littlevillagemag.com).

## AREA EVENTS

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Iowa City Community Theatre Presents: 'George Washington Slept Here,' Johnson County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m., \$9-17  
 Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 7:30 p.m., \$36-46

Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30

The Joffrey Ballet Presents: 'The Nutcracker,' Hancher, 7:30 p.m., \$20-75

'Little Women,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

Derek Lengwenus w/ Tommy Thompson, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50

The Mirage, IMU Main Lounge, 9 p.m., Free

## SAT., DEC. 3

**/EDUCATION:** First Words, Iowa City Public Library, 10 a.m., Free

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, Bruce More, 10 a.m., \$3-7

**/COMMUNITY:** Old World Christmas Market, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 10 a.m., Free

'The Elves and The Shoemaker,' Old Creamery Theatre, 10 a.m., \$10

Dogs Forever Holiday Bazaar, Artisan's Sanctuary, 9 a.m., Free

Annual Ugly Sweater Party, Studio 13, 6 p.m., Free

**/FAMILY:** Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, 10:30 a.m., Free

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,' iWireless Center, 11 a.m., \$16-55

The Joffrey Ballet Presents: 'The Nutcracker,' Hancher, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$20-75

Young Footlitters Presents: 'A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol,' Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 2 & 7 p.m., Free

Winter Wonderettes, Old Creamery Theatre, 2 & 7:30 p.m., \$18.50-30

Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, 5 & 8 p.m., \$36-46

'George Washington Slept Here,' Iowa City Community Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$9-17

'Little Women,' Giving Tree Theater, 8 p.m., \$15-30

Derek Lengwenus w/ Tommy Thompson, Penguin's Comedy Club, 8 p.m., \$15-17.50

**/MUSIC:** Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, Des Moines Civic Center, 2 p.m., \$40-85

Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,' iWireless Center, 3 & 7 p.m., \$16-55

Heartland Marimba Concert, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, 4 p.m., Free

Milonga (Tango Dance Party), Iowa City Senior Center, 7:30 p.m., \$5

Sing-Along Messiah, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m., \$8-12





Photo: Lisa Marie Mazzucco

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## AREA EVENTS

**/MUSIC:** Mipso w/ Kristin Andreassen, *The Mill*, 8 p.m., \$12-15  
**Quad City Symphony Orchestra Masterworks II: River Romance**, Adler Theatre, 8 p.m., \$6-62  
**Skunk River Medicine Show**, *Cafe Paradiso*, 8 p.m., Free  
**Grass Fed Mule w/ Flash in a Pan**, *Iowa City Yacht Club*, 10 p.m., \$8

## SUN., DEC. 4

**/COMMUNITY:** Old World Christmas Market, *National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library*, 10 a.m., Free  
**/SPORTS-N-REC:** Turf Wars: Dodgeball Tournament, *US Cellular Center*, 10 a.m., Free  
**/CRAFTY:** Lamrim Buddhist Center Craft Day: Malas, Mantras & more, *Lamrim Kadampa Buddhist Center*, 12 p.m., \$20  
**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,' *iWireless Center*, 1 & 5 p.m., \$16-55  
**Winter Wonderettes**, *Old Creamery Theatre*, 2 p.m., \$18.50-30  
**'George Washington Slept Here,'** *Iowa City Community Theatre*, 2 p.m., \$9-17  
**The Joffrey Ballet Presents: 'The Nutcracker,'** *Hancher*, 2 p.m., \$20-75  
**'Little Women,'** *Giving Tree Theater*, 2 p.m., \$15-30  
**Triple Espresso**, *The Temple Theater*, 3 p.m., \$36-46  
**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** Daytime Holiday Mansion Tours, *Brucemore*, 1 p.m., \$3-7  
**/MUSIC:** Live Celtic Christmas Music, *Lion Bridge Brewing Company*, 2 p.m., Free

## MON., DEC. 5

**/EDUCATION:** ICPL Tech Help, *Iowa City Public Library*, 10 a.m., Free  
**/FAMILY:** Toddler Storytime, *Iowa City Public Library*, 10:30 a.m., Free  
**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** **The Nutcracker,** *Paramount Theatre Cedar Rapids*, 7:30 p.m., Free

## TUE., DEC. 6

**/LITERATURE:** **The Rainbow Room** by The Iowa Writers' House, *Iowa City Public Library, Room B*, 6 p.m., Free  
**/MUSIC:** Blues Jam, *Parlor City Pub and Eatery*, 7 p.m., Free  
**Emanuel Ax**, *Hancher*, 7:30 p.m., \$10-60  
**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** **'Beautiful' - The Carole King Musical**, *Des Moines Civic Center*, 7:30 p.m., \$35-85



## ONGOING EVENTS

**MONDAYS** Moeller Mondays, Daytrotter, 7 p.m. **Open Mic**, The Mill, Free, 8 p.m. **Honeycombs of Comedy**, Yacht Club, \$3, 10 p.m.

**TUESDAYS** Iowa City Farmers Market, Mercer Park, 3-6 p.m. **Acoustic Music Club**, River Music Experience, Free, 4:30 p.m. **Tuesday Evening Jazz**, Motley Cow Cafe, Free, 5:30 p.m. **Karaoke Tuesdays**, The Mill, Free, 10 p.m. **Blues Jam**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. **Underground Open Mic**, The Yacht Club, Free, 8 p.m. **Weekly Old-Timey Jam Session**, Trumpet Blossom Cafe, Free, 8:30 p.m. **Comedy & Open Mic Night**, Studio 13, Free, 9 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS** Music is the Word: Music on Wednesdays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. **Burlington Street Bluegrass Band**, The Mill, \$5, 6 p.m. (2nd & 4th Wednesdays) **Open Mic Night**, Penguin's Comedy Club, Free, 6:30 p.m. **Spoken Word**, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. (1st Wednesday) **Open Mic**, Cafe Paradiso, Free, 8 p.m. **Karaoke Wednesdays**, Mondo's Saloon, Free, 10 p.m. **Open Stage**, Studio 13, 10 p.m. **Open Jam and Mug Night**, Yacht Club, Free, 10 p.m. **Late Shift at the Grindhouse**, FilmScene, \$4, 10 p.m.

**THURSDAYS** I.C. Press Co-op open shop, Public Space One, Free, 4 p.m. **Thursday Night Lineup: Nooks and Crannies Tour**, Brucemore Mansion, \$10-15, 5:30 p.m. **Thursday Night Lineup: Hired Help Tour**, Brucemore Mansion, \$10-15, 5:30 p.m. **Novel Conversations**, Coralville Public Library, Free, 7 p.m. (3rd Thursday) **Thursday Night Live Open Mic**, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. **Daddy-O**, Parlor City Pub and Eatery, Free, 7 p.m. **Live Jazz**, Clinton Street Social Club, Free, 8 p.m. **Karaoke Thursday**, Studio 13, Free, 8 p.m. **Gemini Karaoke**, Blue Moose, Free, 9 p.m.

**FRIDAYS** Music is the Word: Music on Fridays, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 12 p.m. **Friday Night Out**, Ceramics Center, 6:30 p.m. **FAC Dance Party**, The Union Bar, 7 p.m. **Sasha Belle presents: Friday Drag & Dance Party**, Studio 13, 8 p.m. **SoulShake**, Gabe's, Free, 10 p.m.

**SATURDAYS** Family Storytime, Iowa City Public Library, Free, 10:30 a.m. **I.C. Press Co-op open shop**, Public Space One, Free, 12 p.m. **Saturday Night Music**, Uptown Bill's, Free, 7 p.m. **Elation Dance Party**, Studio 13, 9 p.m.

**SUNDAYS** Live Music, Sutliff Cider Company, 3 p.m. **Studio Survivor & Pride Bingo**, Studio 13, 6:30 p.m. **Pub Quiz**, The Mill, \$1, 9 p.m.

**/THEATRE-AND-PERFORMANCE:** Triple Espresso, The Temple Theater, \$36-46 (Nov. 15-Jan. 7), **Winter Wonderettes**, Old Creamery Theatre, \$18.50-30 (Nov. 17-Dec. 18), **'Little Women,'** Giving Tree Theatre, \$15-30 (Nov. 25-Dec. 11), **'The Elves and the Shoemaker,'** Old Creamery Theatre, \$10 (Nov. 26-Dec. 17), **The Joffrey Ballet: 'The Nutcracker,'** Hancher, \$20-75 (Dec. 1-4), **Disney On Ice Presents: 'Dare to Dream,'** iWireless Center, \$16-55 (Dec. 1-4), **'George Washington Slept Here,'** Iowa City Community Theatre, \$9-17 (Dec. 2-11)

**/ART-AND-EXHIBITION:** **'Mightier Than The Sword,'** African American Museum of Iowa (Aug. 26-Jul. 29, 2017), **Felix de la Concha**, Legion Arts CSPA Hall (Oct 6-Nov. 27)

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**Clinton Street Social Club** 18 S Clinton St, (319) 351-1690, [clintonstreetsocial.com](http://clintonstreetsocial.com)

**Englert Theatre** 221 E Washington St, (319) 688-2653, [englert.org](http://englert.org)

**FilmScene** 118 E College St, (319) 358-2555, [icfilmscene.org](http://icfilmscene.org)

**First Avenue Club**, 1550 S 1st Ave, (319) 3a37-5527, [firstavenueclub.com](http://firstavenueclub.com)

**Gabe's** 330 E Washington St, (319) 351-9175, [icgabes.com](http://icgabes.com)

**Iowa Artisans' Gallery** 207 E. Washington St, (319) 351-8686, [iowa-artisans-gallery.com](http://iowa-artisans-gallery.com)

**Iowa City Community Theatre** 4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, (319) 338-0443, [iowacitycommunitytheatre.com](http://iowacitycommunitytheatre.com)

**Iowa City Public Library** 123 S Linn St, (319) 356-5200, [icpl.org](http://icpl.org)

**Iowa City Senior Center** 28 S Linn St, (319) 356-5220, [icgov.org](http://icgov.org)

**Iowa City Yacht Club** 13 S Linn St, (319) 337-6464, [iowacityyachtclub.com](http://iowacityyachtclub.com)

**Iowa Memorial Union** 125 N Madison St, (319) 335-3041, [imu.uiowa.edu](http://imu.uiowa.edu)

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**The Mill** 120 E Burlington St, (319) 351-9529, [icmill.com](http://icmill.com)

**Old Capitol Museum** 21 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0548, [uiowa.edu/oldcap](http://uiowa.edu/oldcap)

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**Terry Trueblood Recreation Center** 4213 Sand Rd SE, [icgov.org](http://icgov.org)

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**University of Iowa Museum of Art** 1375 Iowa 1, (319) 335-1727, [uima.uiowa.edu](http://uima.uiowa.edu)

**University of Iowa Museum of Natural History** 17 N Clinton St, (319) 335-0480, [uiowa.edu/mnh](http://uiowa.edu/mnh)

**Uptown Bill's** 730 S Dubuque St, (319) 339-0804, [uptownbills.org](http://uptownbills.org)

### CEDAR RAPIDS/MARION

**African American Museum of Iowa** 55 12th Ave SE, (319) 862-2101, [blackiowa.org](http://blackiowa.org)

**Brucemore Mansion** 2160 Linden Dr SE, (319) 362-7375, [brucemore.org](http://brucemore.org)

**Cedar Rapids Museum of Art** 410 Third Avenue SE, (319) 366-7503, [crma.org](http://crma.org)

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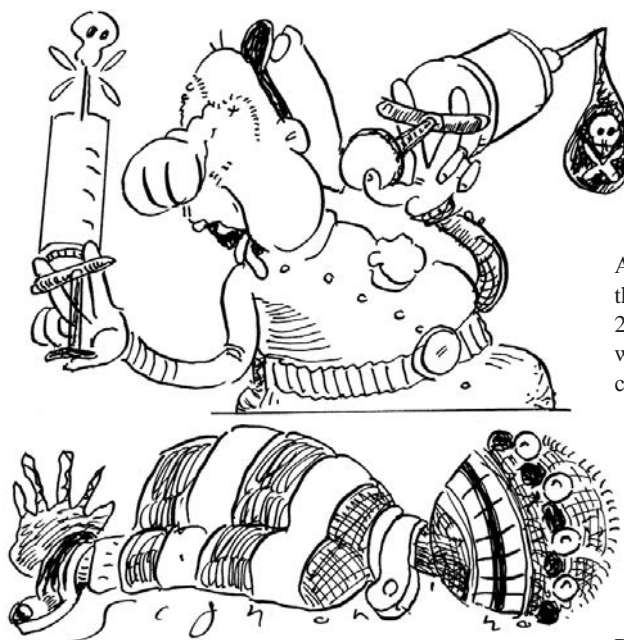
## WHY DOES LETHAL INJECTION GO WRONG SO OFTEN?

*I recently had to put down our dog, a large Labrador. Despite my emotional turmoil, I couldn't help but notice the complete lack of pain, trauma and stress our dog experienced, and how quickly it was all over. Why do there seem to be ongoing issues whenever we execute people by lethal injection that we never see when dogs get put to sleep? —Mike Hogan*

**E**very dog must someday romp off into the great beyond, and when its owner decides that the time has come, a licensed vet will be there to administer a lethal shot, typically of pentobarbital. Delivered in sufficient dosage, this barbiturate, most widely marketed in the U.S. as Nembutal, zips through the bloodstream to knock out brain and heart functions pretty much simultaneously. The end is instant and painless; the process so far from cruel and unusual that even the Humane Society grudgingly recommends it if euthanasia is unavoidable. With an even bigger hit of pentobarbital you can put down a horse—or end a human life with little muss or fuss.

Next time you're looking for reasons to grumble that we Americans treat our pets better than our fellow human beings, contrast that frictionless procedure with the dysfunctional workings of death row. As of 2010, about seven percent of lethal injections conducted in the U.S. resulted in some shameful, often headline-snagging snafus. And that incompetence hasn't abated in the years since—capital punishment has if anything become an even less professional undertaking, as reputation-protecting drug manufacturers and physicians edge away from the institution and states grow cagier about what happens in the death chamber.

The irony here is that the earliest advocates of chemical execution actually got the idea from animal euthanasia. “We kill animals more humanely than people,” pathologist Jay Chapman recalls thinking circa 1977, while Gary Gilmore was awaiting death by firing squad. It was in that year that Chapman, then Oklahoma's chief medical examiner, whipped up the lethal-injection protocol that still bears his name. His three-drug cocktail—sodium thiopental as a sedative, pancuronium to still



the lungs, and potassium chloride to stop the heart—was eventually adopted nationwide, as well as in some of those few other countries that still execute criminals.

The Illinois-based drug manufacturer Hospira slammed the brakes on the Chapman protocol in 2011 when it ceased production of sodium thiopental. Scrambling about for a substitute, death-penalty states turned to the drug that vets had been using for years: pentobarbital. But once word got out that Nembutal was now being used for capital-punishment purposes, public outcry in execution-averse Europe led to a pledge from its Danish manufacturer, Lundbeck, to stop selling it to states that practiced lethal injection. Undeterred, some corrections departments started buying compounded barbiturates from unregulated smaller pharmacies, while state lawmakers moved to shield the drugs' provenance from journalists, defense lawyers and even judges. When in 2014 a lethal-injection recipient in Oklahoma protested, “I feel my whole body burning,” there

was no way for reporters to determine where the crucial dose of pentobarbital had come from.

Undependable drugs notwithstanding, the bigger problem may lie in, well, in the execution. Someone has to do the injecting, and it matters quite a bit who that someone is. Though lethal injection superficially resembles a medical procedure (as we discussed here back in 1991, the prisoner's arm typically gets swabbed with alcohol first, as though infection were a concern), inducing death in the healthy is something many doctors and other licensed pros choose to steer clear of. The American Nurses Association is “strongly opposed” to its members taking part in an execution, and the American Medical Association's code of ethics states flat out that physicians shouldn't get involved. In 2010 the American Board of Anesthesiology went further, reserving its right to revoke certification for lethal-injection participants.

With the pool of experienced injectors thus limited, it's maybe unsurprising how often execution personnel can't manage to find a vein. Stanley “Tookie” Williams got jabbed like a pincushion by California injection techs for almost 20 minutes in 2005; four years later in Ohio, executioners fumbled around so ineffectually that Romell Broom is still alive to appeal his sentence. And in the most notoriously botched injection of recent years, the IV line that was at length inserted into Oklahoma prisoner Clayton Lockett in 2014 pumped sedative into his flesh rather than the intended blood vessel; he was apparently at least semiconscious when the potassium chloride hit, and it took him nearly 45 torturous and bloody minutes to finally die. As Jay Chapman himself said in 2007, “It never occurred to me when we set this up that we'd have complete idiots administering the drugs.”

To be fair, not every instance of animal euthanasia goes off without a hitch either. In 2010, a Detroit man brought his apparently lifeless Rottweiler home from the vet believing she'd been put to sleep, planning to bury her the next day; come morning, she was up and about, the recipient of an insufficient barbiturate dosage. If plans go awry even when we dote on the creature we're killing, small wonder that issues arise when injecting humans we've decided don't deserve to live. **lv**

—Cecil Adams



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## ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "We all have ghosts inside us, and it's better when they speak than when they don't," wrote author Siri Hustvedt. The good news, Sagittarius, is that in recent weeks your personal ghosts have been discoursing at length. They have offered their interpretation of your life's central mysteries and have provided twists on old stories you thought you had all figured out. The bad news is that they don't seem to want to shut up. Also, less than 25 percent of what they have been asserting is actually true or useful. But here's the fantastic news: Those ghosts have delivered everything you need to know for now, and will obey if you tell them to take an extended vacation.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the film *Bruce Almighty*, Morgan Freeman plays the role of God, and Capricorn actor Jim Carrey is a frustrated reporter named Bruce Nolan. After Nolan bemoans his rocky fate and blames it on God's ineptitude, the Supreme Being reaches out by phone. (His number is 716-776-2323.) A series of conversations and negotiations ensues, leading Nolan on roller-coaster adventures that ultimately result in a mostly happy ending. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you Capricorns will have an unusually high chance of making fruitful contact with a Higher Power or Illuminating Source in the coming weeks. I doubt that 716-776-2323 is the right contact information. But if you trust your intuition, I bet you'll make the connection.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some spiders are both construction workers and artists. The webs they spin are not just strong and functional, but also feature decorative elements called "stabilimenta." These may be as simple as zigzags or as complex as spiral whorls. Biologists say the stabilimenta draw prey to specific locations, help the spider hide and render the overall stability of the web more robust. As you enter the web-building phase of your cycle, Aquarius, I suggest that you include your own version of attractive stabilimenta. Your purpose, of course, is not to catch prey, but to bolster your network and invigorate your support system. Be artful as well as practical. (Thanks to Mother Nature Network's Jaymi Heimbuch for info on stabilimenta.)

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "Aren't there parts of ourselves that are just better left unfed?" asked Piscean author David Foster Wallace. I propose that we make that one of your two keynotes during the next four weeks. Here's a second keynote: As you become more and more skilled at not fueling the parts of yourself that are better left unfed, you will have a growing knack for identifying the parts of yourself that should be well-fed. Feed them with care and artistry!

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): There is a 97 percent chance that you will NOT engage in the following activities within the next 30 days: naked skydiving, tight-rope walking between two skyscrapers, getting drunk on a mountaintop, taking ayahuasca with Peruvian shamans in a remote rural hut or dancing ecstatically in a muddy pit of snakes. However, I suspect that you will be involved in almost equally exotic exploits—although less risky ones—that will require you to summon more pluck and improvisational skill than you knew you had.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): *The Onion*, my favorite news source, reported that "It's perfectly natural for people to fantasize about sandwiches other than the one currently in their hands." You shouldn't feel shame, the article said, if you're enjoying a hoagie but suddenly feel an inexplicable yearning for a BLT or pastrami on rye. While I appreciate this reassuring counsel, I don't think it applies to you in the coming weeks. In my opinion, you have a sacred duty to be unwaveringly faithful, both in your imagination and your actual behavior—as much for your own sake as for others'. I advise you to cultivate an up-to-date affection for and commitment to what you actually have, and not indulge in obsessive fantasies about "what ifs."

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): I hesitate to deliver the contents of this horoscope without a disclaimer. Unless you are an extremely ethical person with a vivid streak of empathy, you might be prone to abuse the information I'm about to present. So please ignore it unless you can responsibly employ the concepts of benevolent mischief and tricky blessings and cathartic shenanigans. Ready? Here's your oracle: *Now is a favorable time for grayer truths, wilder leaps of the imagination, more useful bullshit, funnier enigmas and more outlandish stories seasoned with crazy wisdom.*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Kavachi is an underwater volcano in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. It erupts periodically, and in general makes the surrounding water so hot and acidic that human divers must avoid it. And yet some hardy species live there, including crabs, jellyfish, stingrays and sharks. What adaptations and strategies enable them to thrive in such an extreme environment? Scientists don't know. I'm going to draw a comparison between you and the resourceful creatures living near Kavachi. In the coming weeks, I bet you'll flourish in circumstances that normal people might find daunting.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Seventeenth-century British people used the now-obsolete word "firkytoodle." It meant "cuddling and snuggling accompanied by leisurely experiments in smooching, fondling, licking and sweet dirty talk." The coming weeks will be prime time for you to carry out extensive experiments in this activity. But here's an interesting question: Will the near future also be a favorable phase for record levels of orgasmic release? The answer: maybe, but IF AND ONLY IF you pursue firkytoodle as an end in itself; IF AND ONLY IF you relish the teasing and playing as if they were ultimate rewards, and don't relegate them to being merely preliminary acts for pleasures that are supposedly bigger and better. P.S. These same principles apply not just to your intimate connections, but to everything else in your life, as well. Enjoying the journey is as important as reaching a destination.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here's an experiment worth trying: Reach back into the past to find a remedy for what's bugging you now. In other words, seek out an old, perhaps even partially forgotten influence to resolve a current dilemma that has resisted your efforts to master it. This is one time when it may make good sense to temporarily resurrect a lost dream. You could energize your future by drawing inspiration from possibilities that might have been but never were.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): By the time he died at the age of 87 in 1983, free thinker Buckminster Fuller had licensed his inventions to more than 100 companies. But along the way, he often had to be patient as he waited for the world to be ready for his visionary creations. He was ahead of his time, dreaming up things that would be needed before anyone knew they'd be needed. I encourage you to be like him in the coming weeks, Libra. Try to anticipate the future. Generate possibilities that people are not yet ripe to accept, but will eventually be ready to embrace.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Does the word "revolution" have any useful meaning? Or has it been invoked by so many fanatics with such melodramatic agendas that it has lost its value? In accordance with your astrological omens, I suggest we give it another chance. I think it deserves a cozy spot in your life during the next few months. As for what exactly that entails, let's call on author Rebecca Solnit for inspiration. She says, "I still think the [real] revolution is to make the world safe for poetry, meandering, for the frail and vulnerable, the rare and obscure, the impractical and local and small." **lv**

## LOCAL ALBUMS



### ANGLE

*Talkin' Story*

[www.angle1.bandcamp.com](http://www.angle1.bandcamp.com)

**L**ongtime Iowa hip hop artist Angle (aka Jarid Catrenich) is at it again. Following on the heels of last year's *Definitive Bedtime Stories* is his newest effort, *Talkin' Story*. Angle is a storyteller, and uses his beats as punctuation for gritty tales that need to be heard. Unlike the happier vibes of *Definitive Bedtime Stories*, *Talkin' Story* has taken a dark turn. There's a lot of emotion in this record—a lot. You have an artist clearly working through some stuff. But for someone who has been in the game more than 15 years, it's not unusual to make a darker record that touches on themes of breakups, death, defining oneself as an artist and love.

This record opens with a set of songs that explain who he is (“OMG,” “Every Night”) and he doesn't make excuses or pander to anyone. Angle is a man who wants to tell you the dark shit—about how breakups make you obsessive, about your art or your paramour. “Exposed Nerve,” the third track on the album, takes us down the path of the obsessive ex-lover, and then winds around to a comparison between love and art. With hard beats, and harder words, the rawness is something you instantly feel. And it doesn't let go. Every track is a challenge, and one you should be willing to take.

The album is heavy lyrically. A trio of songs on this album (“Exposed Nerve,” “Until it's Gone,” “Death Text”) tell the story of slightly obsessive love after a breakup. She moves on with a dangerous man, and, by the third song in the trio, she dies at the hand of the new lover. Lyrically, they are some of the best songs on the album, and, while they are about a girl, they're also about his relationship to his art.

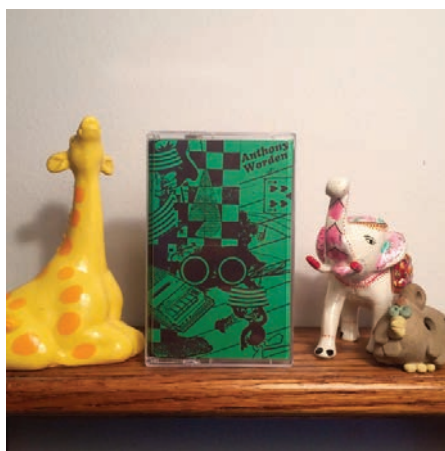
There are some moments of real greatness in both lyrics and production, with support from some longtime collaborators like Felix Thunder and Kurt Loving. Myka 9 appears on “Hazy on a Clear Day,” a soulful number. Aeon Grey, The Dust Collectors and Samuel Jonathan Johnson, Jr. provide production. I love the grit of this album, its lack of timidity

**A lot of sonic territory is covered without ever seeming scattered.**

and how real it is. It would be easy to compare him to other Midwest artists like Atmosphere and Brother Ali, or even the angry energy of Sage Francis. But Angle is his own man, and this record shows us who he is: honest, raw and genuine.

Exactly what you'd expect from a Midwesterner.

—Darcie Hutzell



### ANTHONY WORDEN

*Demos*

[www.anthonyworden.bandcamp.com](http://www.anthonyworden.bandcamp.com)

**W**hen I saw Anthony—aka A J Worden, formerly of Bull Black Nova—perform at The Mill recently, I was struck by how he sometimes sounds a little like Lou Reed. With Reed, you always hear the limitations of his voice. Worden is an actual singer, who confidently hits and holds

pitch, but, like nearly everyone else in the American rock scene for the last year, his songs and delivery can't help but be colored by the influence of Lou Reed.

This is refreshing, actually. Rock musicians have to choose between Lou Reed or the Beatles as their pole star. Nothing against the Beatles (or Guided by Voices, or The

Replacements, or Cheap Trick, or ...), but going down Lou's twisted path is more artistically rigorous. Beatles-esque music seeks to entertain and ingratiate. Reed's disciples aren't afraid of the dark.

On “Who's Who,” particularly, Worden talk-sings with deadpan weariness. “A question about my identity/Why you gotta know?,” he intones. The instrumental ar-

range contrast with Worden's offhanded delivery; Brendan Spengler's piano ostinato and Liz Moen's cooed backing vocals remind me of T. Rex's “Bang A Gong.” The song breaks down to jangly acoustic guitar one time and to sustained feedback another, but hangs together as a single thing. A lot of sonic territory is covered without ever seeming scattered.

“That's All” is enveloped in clouds of sustained synth chords, and Worden chooses a prettier, almost crooning tone. The lyric is bleak and oblique: “When you wake up feeling just the same/Nothing's different because from last night nothing's changed.” It could be about lost love, but very little is given away; the chorus just repeats, “That's all.” The music carries the emotional freight of the track; the melody is heartbreaking when the words say nearly nothing.

“The Style It Takes” seems to encapsulate the Iowa City music scene: “We got the style it takes/But there is no money to make.” “Vice” seems to be a tale of love and lust from an unreliable narrator, saying “I have no troubles anymore” but also “I haven't slept in three days.”

Even though this release is named “Demos,” there's nothing makeshift or tentative about it. Worden's songs and lyrics are never complicated but there's some shadow and mystery in the corners.

—Kent Williams

### SUBMIT ALBUMS FOR REVIEW

**LITTLE VILLAGE  
623 S DUBUQUE ST, IOWA CITY**



# AM I LATE? BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

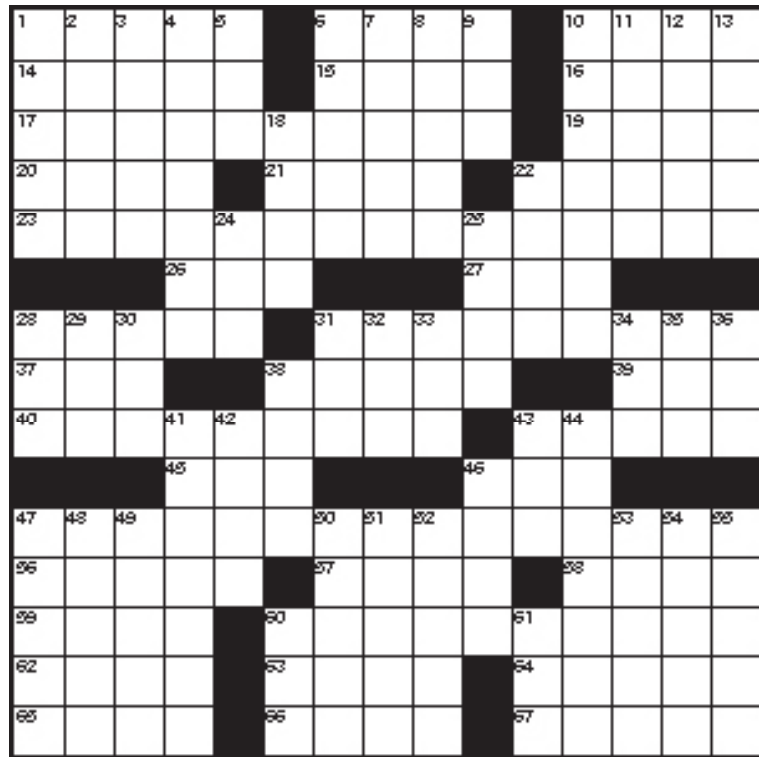
The American Values Club Crossword is edited by Ben Tausig. Subscription information can be found at [avxword.com](http://avxword.com).

## ACROSS

1. Healing rubs
6. Letting in a draft, perhaps
10. Faux
14. Nail a final, say
15. 2016 election hashtag
16. Independent 2016 presidential candidate McMullin
17. Enclosed dog park for a wrinkly Chinese breed?
19. Crossword redundancy, casually (let me tell you, it's a puzzlemaker's bane, let me tell you)
20. Private college in New Rochelle, New York
21. Title from Old Church Slavonic
22. Rumble
23. What you get if you feed your winter underwear through a paper shredder?
26. Astronomical period
27. Savings vehicle, briefly
28. Permit, as a marriage
31. Quarter on which George Washington sports a bald fade, Rag & Bone fedora (\$195), and Eddie Bauer blazer (\$120)?
37. "This \_\_\_\_ has been this shrimp's AA sponsor for three years" (one of the Onion's "8 Unlikely Animal Friendships")
38. *Toy Story* sheriff
39. Swing state, recently: Abbr.
40. Colors on a surrealistic palette?
43. Teen in a DeLorean
45. Space station that had a supply of cognac and vodka
46. DuckDuckGo address
47. Casual French restaurant in a psychiatric hospital?
56. Approvals
57. Bat mitzvah, e.g.
58. Cooper and Countryman maker
59. Hauling truck
60. Détente in San Fran's locker room?
62. Musk of PayPal, SpaceX, etc.
63. Signs, as a contract
64. Weltschmerz relative
65. Called up
66. Troll, e.g.
67. Big name in gaming headsets

## DOWN

1. Herb on margherita pizzas
2. Involuntary sound, usually
3. Rimes of country
4. Visions of Oasis at an oasis, say (that would be weird, sure, but it would count)
5. Richard Petty sponsor
6. Religious sect that follows the Ordnung
7. Whence the band BABYMETAL originated
8. Working late, not sleeping, chain smoking, doing mountains of coke, and having a daughter in kindergarten, e.g.
9. Booked it
10. Battlefield healthcare option
11. Seed, before fertilization
12. Green bud that's about the size of a 61-Down
13. Pious people may be seen on theirs
18. Rival of Harrow, Radley, and Winchester
22. Mucky mud
24. \_\_\_\_ A. Bank
25. Easter flower
28. Twin, e.g.
29. Grazing spot
30. 90-degree shape for a desk or a building wing
31. Certain descendant
32. "This Little Pig" digit
33. Stat for DeMarco Murray
34. Not quite right
35. Sick as a dog
36. Vote of rejection
38. "I hear ya barking, big dog"
41. [Five crying-with-laughter-face emojis]
42. They're worth one point in soccer
43. \_\_\_\_ Potato Head
44. Roger whom Bill Simmons called "the



Antichrist" in an ESPN column

46. Manipulative sort
47. Complete phony
48. Wolf in *The Jungle Book*
49. Dash who co-founded Roc-A-Fella records
50. Pickle juice
51. Places to do camels
52. "This is only \_\_\_\_ ..."
53. Mirthful
54. Acquire, as debts
55. Refrain in a song with animal noises
60. Taste of whiskey, say
61. Green veggie that's about the size of a 12-Down

## LV209 ANSWERS

B	A	L	M	S	A	J	A	R	M	O	C	K
A	C	E	I	T	M	A	G	A	E	V	A	N
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